

NEWS IN SUMMARY

'Mountain' of railway arrears

If the Government applied electrification now the railways might not be able to implement it, Sir Peter Parker, British Rail chairman, said yesterday (Michael Baily). That was because the railways were facing a mountain of arrears in necessary expenditure.

Addressing a rally of rail pensioners at Euston, Sir Peter declared that present railway policies could be regretted in the longer term. British Rail had hit all its targets in the past five years but "we can meet our financial targets and still fail the future".

His warning was echoed by Sir Henry Johnson, a former railway chairman, he said that with the most cost-effective railway in Europe Britain was failing to apply consistent policies and investment. The public were getting angry and railway workers were blamed.

Appealing to the Government to help the railways after the recent "shattering setback", the chairman of the pensioners, Mr Frank Hick, a former railway operator, said: "We have watched with great sadness the current dispute and tearing apart of our railway inheritance."

MPs to protest against Reagan

A group of Labour MPs yesterday announced plans to dub President Reagan "an enemy of peace" during his visit to Britain in June. They have formed a Reagan Reception Committee, already backed by Mr Wedgwood Benn and more than 30 other Labour MPs, to organize protests during his visit.

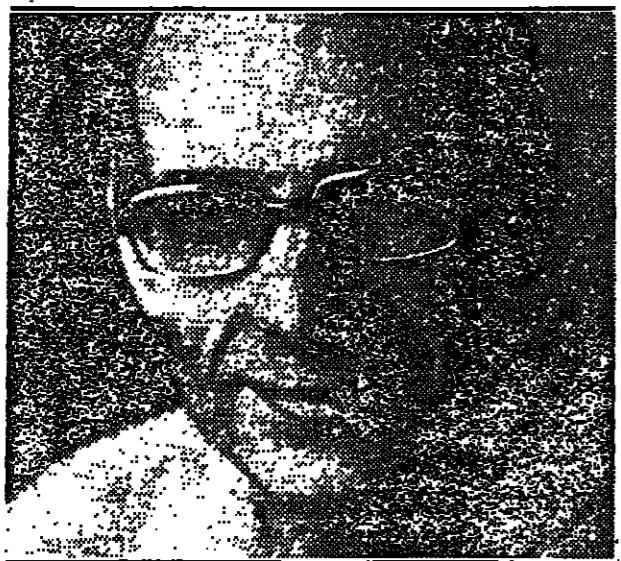
MPs are expected to join pickets against the President at Heathrow, Windsor Castle and the United States Embassy.

When he is received by both Houses of Parliament on June 8, the "reception committee" plans an alternative meeting in Parliament's grand committee room.

Mr Ernest Roberts, the committee chairman, said in London the group did not regard the American people as an enemy, but that Mr Reagan was "an enemy of peace". His motive with his Falklands initiative was to avoid a war in his own backyard. Mr Roberts, MP for Hackney, North, and Stoke Newington, said.

Benefit cut for school-leavers

Up to 350,000 families will lose child benefit this summer under new regulations affecting school-leavers. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday that child benefit will be withdrawn for any school-leaver getting either a place on a Youth Opportunities Programme or a full-time job during school holiday periods (Pat Bealey writes). In a written answer yesterday Mr Fowler said was difficult to justify continuing payment of child benefit for young people who got full-time work during the holidays.

Hugh Jones is incurable.**He's planning his autobiography.**

Hugh Jones was married and successful in his career as a sales representative when he contracted multiple sclerosis. The symptoms took some time to develop, but now he is one of our patients, confined to a wheelchair. His mind, though, is as keen and active as ever - he studies with the Open University, writes poetry and is planning an autobiography which he hopes will encourage other sufferers from multiple sclerosis.

We have over 270 incurable patients to care for. We cannot cure them. But we can help them. Skilled care can help them surmount their disabilities as much as possible, and can help them lead as full a life as possible. But we, too, need help. We are not part of the Health Service and we rely a lot on the generosity of the compassionate. Please help us with a donation, a deed of covenant or a bequest.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL & HOME FOR INCURABLES,
(Putney and Brighton).
Dept. T2, West Hill, Putney, London SW15 3SW.
Patrons: HM The Queen and HM The Queen Mother.
Director of Appeals and Publicity:
Air Commodore D. F. Nixon, OBE, DFC, AFC.

**Power engineers dash hopes for strike pact**

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Prospects of the present Government negotiating a strike agreement with the bigger public sector groups were extinguished yesterday when delegates of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, whose 33,000 members control supplies to the National Grid, voted overwhelmingly "not to enter in any agreement with the employing boards that removes the right to strike".

The motion, carried at the union's conference in York, was told by Mr John Lyons, the general secretary, that industrial action was "absolutely unavoidable" if the Electricity Council failed to maintain pay differentials enjoyed by engineers and managers over the industry's 30,000 manual workers.

The power engineers' association, one of the most powerful and moderate of TUC-affiliated unions, is thought to have been almost the only one to take up informally the idea of a no-strike deal when it was floated by the Opposition during the 1978 to 1979 "winter of discontent".

Only a few hands were raised yesterday against to call to oppose such a pact, proposed by Mr Tony Aldous, of the union's headquarters branch. Mr Aldous said it would be wrong for the union "to sell the right to strike for 30 pieces of silver".

Backing the anti-pact motion, Mr Lyons said: "We have never set out to hold the country to ransom over greedy pay claims. However, when you see how the employers behave when you have the right to strike, do you imagine they would carry on if you were without it?"

No legal arrangement

could embody a no-strike provision at the same time as protecting the earnings of the union's members, he said.

Mr Aldous told delegates that while the Conservatives had "not since assuming office come up with any firm proposals for a no-strike pact we believed they might do so in the next year or so in an attempt to buy popularity before a general election".

Opposing the motion, Mr Peter Randall, from Reading, said that the strike weapon had come to be seen as a "sort of trade union virility symbol", and added: "Are we ever likely to use it, and if we do will it be effective?"

Mr Lyons's warning that industrial action was possible in the near future came during a debate about the Electricity Council's two-month delay in making a pay offer to engineers and managers, who earn between £5,050 and £22,150 per year.

The association fears that differentials between manual workers will be eroded to maintain the gap between the top of their pay scale and the £22,500 earned by the lowest-paid area board members. Mr Lyons said that engineers and managers were becoming "the meat in the sandwich" between board members and manual workers.

Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, who cancelled a visit to York because of yesterday's emergency Cabinet meeting, escaped what would almost certainly have been a rough ride from delegates angry about the dismissal of Mr Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generation Board, and about the Government's plan to sell off part of the electricity supply industry.

Now a hospital scan has confirmed that Mrs Duncan, married for five years, will give birth to twins early in September. She said yesterday: "It's delightful news and a dream coming true. I will have three."

The couple, who live in Aldbury Rise, Coventry, recently adopted a boy aged three. Mr Duncan said: "The first two implants cost £1,600 each and the final one £1,800. But it is well worth every penny."

Later this month he takes over as

headmaster of a 1,000 pupil school in Bradford.

The Steptoe clinic is maintaining its usual confidentiality by refusing to discuss whether there are any other test-tube twins on the way in Britain. □ Only a small proportion of the attempts to implant a fertilized ovum in the uterus are successful. (Our Medical Correspondent writes). In order to increase the likelihood of success some gynaecologists are now using more than one ovum at a time. This will result in a higher than normal incidence of twins. More than one attempt can be made at implantation, but each requires the patient to be admitted to hospital for ten days for laparoscopy and other checks. As the cost on each occasion in the private sector, is about £2,000 financial rather than medical considerations are likely to be the prohibiting factor.

Challenge of SDP in local polls

By Richard Evans and David Walker

Two-thirds of the 2,300 SDP candidates fighting next month's local government elections have never contested an election before, it was disclosed yesterday.

With the Liberals providing a similar number of candidates, the two-party Alliance is fighting nearly all the town hall seats which will be decided by voters on May 6.

Mr John Cartwright, SDP MP for Greenwich, Woolwich, East, party spokesman on local government, said at the start of the party's first large-scale electoral campaign yesterday that many of the SDP candidates with little political experience "were driving in the deep end".

"These elections will be a major test for our organization because we cannot concentrate in the same way as we can for parliamentary elections. Many of our candidates have never fought anything before. Many of our agents have never been agents in an election, so everybody is learning."

"It is very much a dress rehearsal for us. It is an experience which we very much need in terms of the coming general election. We regard as a searching test of our organization," he said.

The SDP has held training sessions attended by about 1,000 candidates and agents. Mr Cartwright said he was disappointed that only 15 per cent of the SDP candidates were women, but was encouraged by the number of people from ethnic minorities contesting seats for the party.

Social Democrats have agreed a joint policy with their Liberal partners in many areas and their slogan for the campaign is, "care about people, care about costs".

"We want to try to give local government back to the people; to make it more sensitive, more caring, and to bring it closer in touch with the people if it is there to serve, while at the same time trying to deliver services in an efficient and low cost way as we can."

"That means challenging everything that has been done in local government. The fact that so many of our candidates are new to local government is a plus factor. They will go in questioning and challenging everything and trying to find better and cheaper ways of providing services". Mr Cartwright said.

The SDP wants to restore public confidence in local government which, it says, has been undermined by the attitudes and policy of central government as well as the actions of extreme Labour councils.

Schools peace

A teachers' dispute that had lasted for six weeks in the London borough of Barking disrupting the education of thousands of children was settled yesterday.

Schools will be back to normal when the summer term begins on April 19 after an agreement between the National Union of Teachers and the Labour-controlled authority which had agreed to restore 100 of 159 teaching posts due to be axed.

'Disastrous' to reduce junior doctors' posts

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

A reorganization of the health service so that all patients were looked after by consultants and there were fewer junior hospital doctors, froze on some junior doctor posts, when vacated, the report said.

Sir Douglas Black, president of the Royal College, predicted yesterday that the Government, which has accepted the Short report, would implement only those parts which would save money. The result would be fewer junior doctors but more consultants.

Senior house officer posts in hospitals had been frozen, yet the recommendation of the college's Manpower Advisory Panel that the number of consultants should go from 1982/83 by 118 to 105 posts to 10 to 15 posts by the health authorities and the Department of Health and Social Security.

Sir Douglas said that the college was critical of the "simplistic" view that junior posts could be frozen and converted into senior posts. There had to be sufficient juniors to filter into the senior posts, he said.

CORRECTION

Mr William Rees-Davies MP states that Judge Pickles in a case reported on March 31, in which two families were awarded damages for an abandoned holiday at a villa on Corfu, accepted that the contract was breached and on brochure and did not find that Mr Rees-Davies had described the villa as "the best on the island".

Overseas selling prices

Austria 50c; Belgium 60c; Canada 65c; Denmark 80c; France 70c; Germany 75c; Greece 120c; Holland 120c; Israel 180c; Italy 100c; Japan 150c; Luxembourg 140c; Malta 120c; Norway 120c; Portugal 120c; Spain 120c; Switzerland 120c; Turkey 120c; U.S.A. \$1.50; UAE Dir. 150c.



Mr and Mrs Duncan: "It's a dream coming true and worth every penny"

Third time lucky for test-tube mother

It could be third time lucky for the wife of a Coventry schoolmaster who is expecting test tube twins. For Mrs Satwinder Duncan, aged 24, whose husband Mr Carlton Duncan, is the deputy head of Sidney Stringer Community College in Coventry, was unsuccessful with two previous implants at the Cambridgeshire clinic of Mr Patrick Steptoe, pioneer of the test-tube baby technique.

Now a hospital scan has confirmed that Mrs Duncan, married for five years, will give birth to twins early in September. She said yesterday: "It's delightful news and a dream coming true. I will have three."

The couple, who live in Aldbury Rise, Coventry, recently adopted a boy aged three. Mr Duncan said: "The first two implants cost £1,600 each and the final one £1,800. But it is well worth every penny."

Later this month he takes over as

Mine strike threat to save pit

By Paul Routledge

Industrial action that could spread throughout the mining industry is being planned over the fate of a single pit in the militant Kent coalfield.

Area leaders of the National Union of Miners workers have drawn up plans for an immediate 24-hour strike if the National Coal Board does not approve a £3m development scheme to keep open Snowdown colliery.

Snowdown, which employs 850 men producing 300,000 tonnes a year of valuable coking coal, was one of 23 pits scheduled for closure under the coal board's accelerated shutdown programme that was abandoned a year ago in the face of a national strike threat.

Coal board mining engineers agreed that to investigate possible reserves below the existing seam, which is nearing exhaustion, and they have discovered a rich measure ranging from 5ft to 8ft in thickness, just 40ys further down.

An application to go into those reserves will be considered on April 22, and the miners hope that the development scheme will be approved. If it is not, and the pit is put back on the closure list, Kent area miners will stop for an undisclosed date to attend "action meetings" at which proposals to extend the stoppage will be discussed, and almost certainly approved.

Mr Jack Collins, secretary of the Kent area, made clear yesterday that an extended stoppage in the coalfield would be spread rapidly to other areas through flying pickets.

Kent miners will also seek the sacking of the union's national executive under its new president, Mr Arthur Scargill, who was elected on a "no pit closure for economic reasons" ticket. Miner's sponsored MPs would also be asked to give their support.

The miners of Kent are the first to attempt to halt the coal board's closure programme at local level.

Labour group praise for TUC Europe view

By George Clark

The prospects of Labour's policy on withdrawal from the European Community being influenced by the more realistic attitude now being adopted by the TUC general council are discussed in a pamphlet, *Labour Prejudices and Reality*, published yesterday by the Labour Movement for Europe.

Mr Denis Howell, MP for Birmingham, Small Heath, and Labour frontbench spokesman on the environment and sport, says in a preface that as the research department of the party and of the TUC begin to assemble the pamphlet points out that the general council had said that its "study" would "examine in detail the scope for radical amendments to the Treaty of Rome" in order to change the direction of the Community.

"That is vastly different from simply supporting withdrawal", the pamphlet states.

"Labour gives the impression of rushing in with every intention of justifying the decisions already taken," he writes. "Fortunately, the TUC seems to be asking all the right questions about options and alternatives, so essential if we are to state with clarity and conviction the means by which British prosperity can be maintained and British prosperity assured after we leave the EEC."

The pamphlet argues that withdrawal could push unemployment up to five million, due to a loss of export trade and of investments, and disagrees with the claim by Labour opponents of the EEC that Labour must take Britain out of the Community if it is to pursue the alternative economic strategy. "These arguments are based on ignorance, xenophobia and a blind refusal to accept facts," it states.

Mr Howell emphasizes that the Labour Movement for Europe is committed to comradeship and partnership with all democratic socialists in Europe. "It is now clear from the policies being pursued in France that our economic programme in no way conflicts with our membership of the EEC", he adds.

The NEC, in its yearning for a return to the days when the Empire was able to provide us with what we wanted for very little money, is living in a "cloud cuckoo land", the pamphlet states.

"The TUC is more realistic, noting that the disparity between Community prices and world prices is not as great as it once was, and pointing out that there would be substantial difficulties in returning to the position where Britain enjoyed relatively cheap supplies of food from the Commonwealth."

Labour Prejudices (Labour Movement for Europe, 1 Whitehall Place, London, SW1, 50p.)

Reporter at war HQ protest cleared

From Our Correspondent, Stockport

A young woman press reporter who watched as peace demonstrators made a late night raid on a nuclear war bunker was cleared of criminal infringement when they then at Stockport Magistrates' Court yesterday. Mr Rainsford Vaughan, her solicitor, said it was an important case of press freedom.

"Her purpose was to report and observe; she was as just doing her job," he said.

Miss Elizabeth McCallum, aged 24 of Egerton Road, Manchester, chief reporter of the *Withington Reporter* in Cheshire, denied damaging an eight ft wire fence at a wartime headquarters belonging to Greater Manchester Council at Mill Lane, Cheadle, Stockport, last December. The damage was estimated at £188.

Mr Roger Newsome, for the prosecution, said in his submission vainly to establish that this young woman was a participant in the damage. They seek to say the car with someone involved, and that she had met them in a pub is evidence of intent and participation. And it is not evidence of either.

Many reporters are present and are tipped off beforehand that a potentially illegal act is going to be committed. We are concerned with the basic principles of press freedom. The public have the right to accurate information and fair comment. She was reporting the event as accurately as she could. She was exercising her right to do that in a democratic society."

Pensioners' benefit risk

By Pat Realy, Social Services Correspondent

Pensioners are most likely to be forced into hardship by the new rules disqualifying anyone from receiving supplementary benefit if they have more than £2,000 in capital. That was disclosed yesterday in the report of the Supplementary Benefits Inspectorate on the effects of the new rule.

Six of every 10 people who had their benefit stopped under the new rule were pensioners who lost between £1 and over £30 a week in benefit. The typical pensioner cut off from benefit by the new rule was aged over 70, female and living alone.

</div

FALKLANDS CRISIS/1

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 7 1982

Admiral pins his faith on air superiority

By Henry Stanhope Defence Correspondent

Air superiority could be crucial in determining any confrontation between the Royal Navy task force and the Argentine forces in the Falkland Isles. Achieving it, however, could present Rear-Admiral John Woodward and his senior commanders with their greatest problems.

The task force will have an estimated 20 Sea Harrier jets, 12 in HMS *Hermes* and eight in *Invincible*. The Argentines have one aircraft carrier, the elderly *25 de Mayo* which has a peacetime complement of 14 A4 *Skyhawks* — but will probably have more on board from its reserve in the event of a naval battle.

The Harrier is technically a small offensive aircraft, with a performance constrained by the sacrifices made to enable it to take off and land vertically. On the other hand the Navy, like the RAF, launches Harriers from a short take-off. They also have the advantage of the sky-jump, the ramp in the bows which gives the aircraft extra lift into the air.

In the context of an isolated sea battle the Harrier offers the Navy a great deal — and its potential as a ground attack aircraft in support of an amphibious landing is indicated by its adoption by the United States Marines.

The Navy has the latest Sea Dart air defence missile which is installed on HMS *Invincible* and three *Sheffield* class destroyers in the force. Other ships including three of the four *Leander* frigates and two *Amazon* class frigates, which are believed to be with the force, have the older, shorter range *Seacat*.

But the Argentines have two *Sheffield* class anti-aircraft destroyers of their own — with Sea Dart on board — sold by Britain in the kind of deal which might have made economic sense at the time. Their light cruiser, which is on station there, is also equipped with 70 or so *Seacats*. So to some extent, like is facing like — even if Royal Navy sailors, being all professional, should have

more expertise in using their anti-aircraft weapons.

The chief difficulty for Admiral Woodward, however, is that the Argentine coast is only about 400 miles from Port Stanley, while Britain is 8,000 miles away. This puts any naval battle within range of the Argentine Air Force's 68 *Skyhawks*, which have an average tactical radius of action of around 700 miles, and its squadron of 19 *Mirage* interceptors with a similar range.

This would not provide the Argentine Navy with additional air cover if they engaged the British in the area of South Georgia, about 800 miles to the south-east. But this would seem unlikely anyway. Current thinking is that the British task force, 3,500 miles away from its "forward" base on Ascension Island, will make first for

Gales and ice ahead

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The task force is sailing into a stormy part of the ocean at the worst time of the year. Although the main islands of East and West Falkland, separated by a 25-mile-wide gap at about the same latitudes as London, is in the northern half, the climate is more severe. Ice could be encountered at South Georgia.

Conditions at sea are similar to those in the North Atlantic Approaches off the Outer Hebrides, but the weather is colder. The latitude of the Falklands, and 200 small islands scattered around, is between 51 degrees and 53 degrees south.

Most of them miss the full of the Roaring Forties which sweep across the middle latitudes of the south. Nevertheless a persistent wind of about 15 knots blows even at the best time of the year. The frequency of gale force winds and heavy seas increases as winter approaches at the end of April.

For this second encounter, two battle cruisers, *Invincible* and *Inflexible*, were detached secretly from the Grand Fleet in the North Sea to reinforce the British squadron in the South Atlantic. All but one of the German squadron was sunk.



Defiant gesture: A confident Falkland Islander under the Argentine flag

General's gamble

Retreat could cost Galtieri his job

By Peter Strafford

Argentina is a potentially rich country with enormous natural resources, as almost every Argentine is aware. But it has suffered badly from misgovernment, both civilian and military, in recent years, and the result is that it has failed to fulfil the promise which it showed earlier this century.

General Leopoldo Galtieri, who came to power last December in a bloodless coup within the regime, is only the latest in a long line of military men who have taken the view that they know what is best for the country. His declared objective, like those of his immediate predecessors, is to reverse the decline and begin a process of national reconstruction.

The difference is that he has decided to set about it in a flamboyant and adventurous style. He clearly sees the invasion of the Falklands, which almost all Argentines regard as being properly theirs, as being a popular issue.

If he pulls it off, he will have succeeded in distracting attention, at least for a time, from the economic hardships now afflicting the country. If he is forced to withdraw, he will suffer a humiliating setback, which will not be forgiven either by Argentine public opinion or by his fellow members of the armed forces, who could be counted on to try to remove him from power.

The present military regime took power in 1976 at a time of exceptional disorder in Argentina. Strong, well armed and well financed guerrilla groups were active in many parts of the country, and the inflation rate was high, with inflation reaching 54 per cent in a single month and the currency reserves reduced to almost nothing.

The tottering government of President María Estela Perón, widow of Juan Perón, was plainly unequal to the task of running the country, and the intervention of the armed forces, headed by General Rafael Videla, was widely welcomed.

On the economic front the new military government had some success, initially at least, in restoring normality, boosted by the natural resilience of the Argentine economy. Inflation was brought down, along traditional liberal lines.

But the operations on the other front, against the guerrillas, were more controversial. In the face of an admittedly serious threat, the armed forces made a deliberate decision to wage a "dirty war" in which anyone who was even suspected of sympathies with the guerrillas, or of having any sort of contact with them, was liable to be kidnapped, tortured and killed.

The policy was successful, in that the guerrillas were virtually eliminated from Argentine life. But in the process thousands of people,

Alliance's boat rocked by Steel

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

Action by Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, to prepare for an early general election over the Falklands crisis last night caused new divisions with the Social Democrats.

It was learnt yesterday that he is to advise party negotiators to speed up their negotiations on the division of parliamentary seats with the Social Democrats, completing the carve-up before the new deadline of April 20.

But this was deplored last night by senior Social Democratic sources who described the move as irresponsible at a time when all parties in the Commons should be seen to be rallying around the Government in its resolve to win back the occupied British territory.

While Mr Steel believes that an ultimate solution may yet have to be built around the possibility of turning the Falklands into a United Nations dependency, an idea that may yet be extended to Gibraltar and Hong Kong, his alliance partners feel most strongly that negotiation should concentrate on a return to British sovereignty.

The Liberals also appear to be less resolute on the issue of force, echoing one Labour line that there can be no blank cheques for the military solution.

The Social Democratic argument is that talk of an early election, United Nations dependency and qualifications to the use of force all help to undermine the Government's position

Oil a key factor in attempts to resolve the crisis

By Michael Frenchman

Oil is now emerging as a key factor in any prospective agreement that might be reached between Britain and Argentina — with United States mediation — for solving the present crisis. For some time now there has been considerable speculation and some wildly exaggerated forecasts as to the "putative" medium line between the Falkland Islands and the Argentine mainland.

Atlantic Richfield's consortium included Mobil which later dropped out possibly because of the political position. Technically speaking, the islands only have a three-mile limit as Britain has never declared a 200-mile economic zone around the islands. In any case, this would not have been recognized by the Argentine Government as it claims sovereignty of all the waters and dips to the east.

It is thought that the main reservoir, if it exists, will be closer to the islands than the mainland. But this cannot be proved until test drilling takes place. This has not happened because the British Government has not been able to reach agreement with Argentina.

Over the last 18 months, Argentine Foreign Ministry officials have privately expressed extreme frustration at Britain's attitude to this matter as they would have liked to see some kind of joint proposal for a production sharing agreement.

It now seems possible that such negotiations for a joint production agreement during the United States' as guarantor, in return for a share of the revenue, could lead to a possible basis for a transfer of sovereignty/leaseback settlement.

Oil industry sources claim that the overall prospects are encouraging, but until a proper exploration programme over the whole area has been carried out it is impossible to evaluate the true position. Atlantic Richfield said last night that they

had shown an interest in the disputed Magallanes oil block, which adjoins theirs where test drilling has been carried out, because the seismic data "looked encouraging."

The Foreign Office has in the past been consulted on numerous occasions about applications for drilling off the Falklands but has raised the hope that companies could lose and go away.

One oil expert has said that the indications are that oil and gas deposits are being found in the Sarmiento formation, which is the geological name for the sedimentary layer. This layer lies between the seven-mile mainland and the islands and dips to the east.

It is thought that the main reservoir, if it exists, will be closer to the islands than the mainland. But this cannot be proved until test drilling takes place. This has not happened because the British Government has not been able to reach agreement with Argentina.

Over the last 18 months, Argentine Foreign Ministry officials have privately expressed extreme frustration at Britain's attitude to this matter as they would have liked to see some kind of joint proposal for a production sharing agreement.

It now seems possible that such negotiations for a joint production agreement during the United States' as guarantor, in return for a share of the revenue, could lead to a possible basis for a transfer of sovereignty/leaseback settlement.

View of an eminent authority

International law would favour the British argument

Despite the emotional tide which swept through the House of Commons during last Saturday's emergency debate few references to the international law aspect of the Falkland Islands debacle could be detected. The paucity of order, marked by the Speaker's repeated calls, was equalled only by the rarity of attention to the legal nature of the issues and proposals put before the House.

The Prime Minister informed the House that the unprovoked aggression by the government of Argentina had not a shred of justification or a scrap of legality. This cannot be gainsaid. The conduct of Argentina is a classic violation of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter — prohibition of the use of force against the territory of any state — to which Argentina has been a party since October 24, 1945, when that paramount international law instrument came into force.

It might also be pointed out that at no time has Argentina subscribed to "the optional clause" of the statute of the International Court of Justice accepting its compulsory jurisdiction. Judicial settlement would

method be the proper means, and the value of peaceful and, to refrain from the use or threat of force in the case of an international dispute.

Argentina claims to be entitled to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. So does the United Kingdom. Such an international legal dispute

should as a general rule be referred by the parties to the International Court of Justice.

The famous formula of the US Secretary of State Daniel Webster in 1850 stated:

"There must be a necessity of self-defence, instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means and no moment for deliberation. It must involve nothing unreasonable or excessive since the act justified by the necessity of self-defence must be limited by that necessity and kept clearly within it." This formula received endorsement in a judgment of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg in 1946 and was unanimously reaffirmed by the UN General Assembly the same year (Resolution 25 (1)).

The conduct of Argentina during the last few days does not spell out to the world much confidence in the UN Charter or the validity of Argentina's claim to the Falkland Islands and Dependencies. No doubt that was a factor which the UN Security Council took into account, as it has before, when it adopted last Saturday's resolution demanding an immediate cessation of hostilities, and the immediate withdrawal of all Argentine forces from the Falklands and called on Argentina and Britain to seek a diplomatic solution of their differences and to respect fully the charter.

The "inherent" right is in this instance and individual self-defence. The Falkland Islands stand outside the geographical limits of the

The task force sails on

Carrier crew to get smell of cordite

From John Witherow, on board HMS Invincible, April 6

Part of the British naval force bound for the Falkland Islands rendezvoused in the South Western Approaches today while HMS *Invincible*, the anti-submarine carrier, started to bring its Harrier jets and Sea King helicopters to full operational capacity.

HMS *Fearless*, the assault ship carrying Marines and Commodore Michael Clapp, overall commander of this section of the fleet, sailed from Portsmouth and was due to join the force within the next day or so. Some frigates and supply vessels were already with *Invincible* and the flagship HMS *Hermes*, but the Navy was reluctant to publicize details of the force.

Once the ships have assembled they will head to night in the direction of the Azores to meet the rest of the fleet which is sailing for Ascension Island from operations off Gibraltar.

Preparations on board *Invincible*, which has been sold to the Australians and is due next year, continued with vertical take-off Harrier jets practising mock combat and evading "enemy" radar systems by sailing in low over the waves. For some of the pilots it is their time on board the ship and they have been accustoming themselves to landing on a platform while still within range of mainland bases.

To facilitate operations the carrier circled at only a few knots in calm about 100 miles south of the Scilly Isles while last-minute supplies were flown on board by helicopter.

Captain Jeremy Black, aged 50, addressed the crew after a full-scale practice emergency and outlined the respective strengths of the British and Argentine fleets, the route the ship would be following and the type of preparations to be undertaken as the carrier headed for the South Atlantic.

The mood among the crew and especially the Harrier pilots is one of jubilant optimism. To say they are spoiling for a fight would be an exaggeration but they are nonetheless ready and prepared for it and feel the islands should be regained by whatever means necessary.

"It's what we're trained to do," one officer commented. Lieutenant-Commander Nigel "Sharky" Ward, in charge of 801 Harrier Squadron, said

they were undertaking a full training programme to give some new pilots practice in supporting a marine landing and entering air combat. "That is our bread and butter," he said. "It is what we are best at. We are dead keen to go and very confident."

"That has to be balanced by the fact there will be a few butterflies in our stomachs when we get up there on the flight deck and there will be a lot of aggro in the air".

Underneath someone has scribbled: "or, Erika Roes".

□ HMS *Fearless*, the assault ship which will spearhead any attempt to regain the Falkland Islands, yesterday gathered her brood of landing craft like ducklings under her wing and moved out from Portsmouth to join the task force (Stewart Tindall writes).

On a cold, wet and windswept day there was little sign of the thousands who watched *Invincible* and *Hermes* leave on Monday. But he was aware that the margin for error in modern jet flights was extremely small: "If a pilot gets it wrong for one or two seconds he's a dead man. The Harrier can bite back if you don't fly it properly".

The strain of flying such sophisticated aircraft at sea was shown on the faces of the pilots as they returned for debriefing. One man, Lieutenant Mike Watson, had just made a perfect landing for the first time at sea and his relief was evident.

Armed with heat-seeking Sidewinder missiles and canons, the Harriers intend

to fly at least one missile near the carrier. "We're going to get them used to banks going around the ship," Commander Ward added. "The captain wants the crew to get used to the smell of cordite".

Meanwhile the Sea King squadron was practising take-offs and landings on the flight deck and approaches to the ship. Both Harriers and helicopters are keen to do some night flying at this early stage but the Sea Kings, designed to seek and destroy enemy submarines, are not yet training with torpedoes and depth charges. About a third of the helicopter crews have joined from other squadrons and are taking time to accustom themselves to the *Invincible*.

Captain Black told journalists that the fleet's progress south would depend upon decisions taken by the Foreign and Defence Ministers but they intended to proceed at something under 18 knots steady between 100 and 200 miles. That would enable *Invincible* and *Hermes* to train their aircraft against one another out of radar range and allow the smaller vessels to keep up.

Navy's biggest headache is replenishing supplies from a base 4,000 miles away.

One important factor pre-occupying the task force is the necessity for replenishment of supplies. "To conduct operations 4,000 miles from the nearest base is quite a thing to do", the captain said. The fleet will be accompanied by a number of supply vessels and there are plans to send out relief craft but it is undoubtedly a problem exercising the minds of Naval Command.

The captain sees the present period of training as a time to get the ships to full fighting capacity and to make some adjustments. "We are a navy who tend to train against a Russian threat and here we see some slight changes of emphasis. The sort of thing I am talking about is a matter of detail but nonetheless important."

He said the ship was capable of coping with chemical or nuclear contaminated zones by sealing itself and building up a higher air pressure inside and was well equipped to cope with flooding.

There has been an unconfirmed change in the identification of lifejackets aboard ship. A notice in the clothing store reads: "Due to the untimely death of Mae West all Mark II, 15 and 25 life preservers will be now known as Dolly Parton's".

Underneath someone has scribbled: "or, Erika Roes".

□ HMS *Fearless*, the assault ship which will spearhead any attempt to regain the Falkland Islands, yesterday gathered her brood of landing craft like ducklings under her wing and moved out from Portsmouth to join the task force (Stewart Tindall writes).

For there was no doubt that the ship's bell-like appearance. The decks were lined with men from the 580-strong crew while all there were ranks of Marines dressed in battle fatigues. In their midst were ranged field and anti-tank guns, part of the equipment for a Marine force of 500-700 men on the ship.

For there was no doubt that the ship's bell-like appearance. The decks were lined with men from the 580-strong crew while all there were ranks of Marines dressed in battle fatigues. In their midst were ranged field and anti-tank guns, part of the equipment for a Marine force of 500-700 men on the ship.

For there was no doubt that the ship's bell-like appearance. The decks were lined with men from the 580-strong crew while all there were ranks of Marines dressed in battle fatigues. In their midst were ranged field and anti-tank guns, part of the equipment for a Marine force of 500-700 men on the ship.

PARLIAMENT April 6 1982

PM knew about invasion fleet last Wednesday

FALKLANDS

The precise time at which the Prime Minister had information that an Argentinian invasion fleet was on its way to the Falkland Islands is not known. On Wednesday evening when the Government took action, Mrs Thatcher explained to the Commons.

She was persistently questioned by Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, about the press reports, and she said on today's front page of *The Times* today (Tuesday), that the information about the attack was known in London 10 days before.

This is a claim to be on record from reliable sources. If that was true, it would have been possible for action of interception to be taken. Will she say if that information is correct and, if it was received, what action was taken by the Government?

Mrs Thatcher: As I told the House on Saturday, even if action had been taken (Labour interruptions), Will the House let me answer the question in my own way, giving the information which I am certain is accurate, as I try to do and try to check these matters?

As I told the House on Saturday, even had known at the time of March 19 (Renewed Labour interruptions) — there was the landing at Leith on South Georgia, and that was a long time before the 11 days Mr Thatcher: Not so, but I am told that the Argentine had taken the Falkland Islands?

John Brown (Windsor, C) has also asked: On her own actions over the Falklands issue she has the overwhelming support of this House and of the nation. (Conservative cheers and Labour laughter).

Can she confirm whether or not our mission is to defend the Falklands? If she cannot, will she say if she believes it possible or desirable, in the light of the long-term security interests of the Falkland Islands and to protect the exposed southern Nato flank, that Nato could be established in the Falklands?

Mrs Thatcher: Our mission is to restore British sovereignty to the islands and to give the people what they want — the right to live under British rule and owe allegiance to the British Crown.

Rule covers classroom work only

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Department of Health and Social Security had no intention of sending inspectors to students' homes to check on whether they are doing their homework, Mr Anthony Newton, Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said at question time in the House.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Ferry Barr, Lab) asked for a statement about the re-interpretation of Regulation 7 (2) of the condition of entitlement regulations.

Mr Newton: The Government is reviewing the details of the regulations in the light of the Chief Supplementary Benefit Officer's recent guidance on the interpretation of this regulation.

Our aim is to secure that the 21 hours cover classroom instruction only, subject to the introduction of additional safeguards to ensure that people who have withdrawn from employment to pursue their studies are not entitled to benefit.

The details are still under consideration, but I hope to be able to make an announcement shortly.

Mr Rooker: Everyone who has been concerned about this will be satisfied for the first sentence of the answer. Meanwhile, before

That is our task.

As for a Nato base in the Falklands, we do not think that would be well received. It is very, very far out of the Nato area.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab): Has she been able to study this morning the reports in many newspapers, including *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Times*, about the statement that information about the attack was known in London 10 days before?

This is a claim to be on record from reliable sources. If that was true, it would have been possible for action of interception to be taken. Will she say if that information is correct and, if it was received, what action was taken by the Government?

Mrs Thatcher: As I told the House on Saturday, even if action had been taken (Labour interruptions), Will the House let me answer the question in my own way, giving the information which I am certain is accurate, as I try to do and try to check these matters?

As I told the House on Saturday, even had known at the time of March 19 (Renewed Labour interruptions) — there was the landing at Leith on South Georgia, and that was a long time before the 11 days Mr Thatcher: Not so, but I am told that the Argentine had taken the Falkland Islands?

John Brown (Windsor, C) has also asked: On her own actions over the Falklands issue she has the overwhelming support of this House and of the nation. (Conservative cheers and Labour laughter).

Can she confirm whether or not our mission is to defend the Falklands? If she cannot, will she say if she believes it possible or desirable, in the light of the long-term security interests of the Falkland Islands and to protect the exposed southern Nato flank, that Nato could be established in the Falklands?

Mrs Thatcher: Our mission is to restore British sovereignty to the islands and to give the people what they want — the right to live under British rule and owe allegiance to the British Crown.

ministers in this department to overrule the advice of independent adjudicating authorities.

What is up to us is to decide whether if the meaning of a regulation turns out to be unsatisfactory from our point of view we change the regulation. That is what we are looking at.

Mr Keith Hampshire (Ripon, C): Will he ensure that when drafting new regulations his officers in the Falkland Islands require no change in the Government's basic economic strategy.

Mr Newton: I am anxious to do nothing to inhibit young people who are unemployed from using their time usefully.

Moves to get more to claim benefit

The Government was seeking to cooperate with local authorities in well-aimed schemes to improve take-up of pensioners' supplementary and other benefits, Mr Anthony Newton, Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said at question time in the House.

There was worry about blanket operation, he added, because that might raise hopes not fulfilled and at the same time could produce great overload on local offices involved.

Mr Andrew Bowden (Brighton, Kempston, C) had earlier said: It is tragic that nearly one million pensioners do not receive or receive their full entitlement.

That means there must be suffering hardship and deprivation. He should give maximum priority to ensure that number is substantially reduced.

Mr Newton: He will not overstate the case. On my information for most of those who have not taken up their full entitlement, the amount involved is less than £2 a week.

Of course we should do everything possible to reduce this number and increase actual take-up. We are issuing to new pensioners a folder containing their new books and drawing their attention specifically to the matter.

Quite a lot of the unclaimed benefit arises from confusion caused by the problem of them deciding whether to be on rent or supplementary pension.

We are making sure those who still retain entitlement to supplementary benefit are identified and advised.

Over the last few days (added later) I have arranged that further steps designed to help the take-up problem. The housing benefit scheme will bring significant help. We are working to build on that to reduce the problem still further.

PAC access would cause difficulties

If the Public Accounts Committee of the Commons were able to call for all papers in respect of public enterprises in regard to commercial contracts and commercial details, it would make it difficult to make those commercial decisions and extremely difficult to get anyone to run those undertakings, Mrs Thatcher.

The Prime Minister said when answering questions on British Leyland.

Replying to Mr Tam Dalyell (West Lothian, Lab), who had asked if the PAC should have access to Leyland's books, she said that it was the Government's view that the PAC had access to all those papers to which Government departments had access and for which ministers were responsible to Parliament.

The Government had not received from British Leyland any proposals for funding in addition to those contained in the company's 1982 corporate plan, to which the Government had announced its approval on December 22, 1981.

Mr Newton: I cannot insist on the re-assessment of claims which fall to be judged under the current guidance as to interpretation of the rules. It is not up to



Browne: Nato base

Roberts: Help docks

that she take off the Argentinians by force, and we had understood that there were ships on the way for that, and then we also took certain dispositions.

Mr Foot: Will she answer the immediate point? Questions of British intelligence are concerned in these waters and the House tomorrow as many of my ministers have had to do before? Mrs Thatcher: Not so, but I am told that the Argentine was operating (Labour shouts "No") — information that I myself know and the action which I myself took at the time when I received it.

Sir Paul Bryant (Howden, C): Is she not encouraged by the support this country has received at the United Nations and throughout the free world on the issue of the Falklands Islands crisis taken by the Argentine? Mrs Thatcher: Yes. There was a forceful resolution at the United Nations Security Council calling on the Argentine to withdraw.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, Lab): Will she consider the consequences of the Government's mishandling of the crisis for quite a number of my constituents? Sir Paul Bryant: Not so, but I am told that the Argentine has got ships and the fleet there is.

On the second part, Mr Foot (Labour interruptions) — there was the landing at Leith on South Georgia, and that was a long time before the 11 days Mr Foot: Not so, but I am told that the Argentine has got ships and the fleet there is.

Mrs Thatcher: I have tried to help Mr Foot (Labour interruptions) — he will look at that report, the one on the front of *The Times*, he will see there were ships there. Their intent was not known. (Renewed interruptions) This, I understand, is what the Argentine has got.

Mr Foot: Will she answer the immediate point? Questions of British intelligence are concerned in these waters and the House tomorrow as many of my ministers have had to do before? Mrs Thatcher: Not so, but I am told that the Argentine was operating (Labour shouts "No") — information that I myself know and the action which I myself took at the time when I received it.

Sir Paul Bryant (Howden, C): Is she not encouraged by the support this country has received at the United Nations and throughout the free world on the issue of the Falklands Islands crisis taken by the Argentine? Mrs Thatcher: Yes. There was a forceful resolution at the United Nations Security Council calling on the Argentine to withdraw.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, in a written reply about the ban on all imports from Argentina, said all import licences were built on existing arrangements were revoked with effect from midnight tonight (Tuesday).

She had been asked by Mr Robert Cryer (Keighley, Lab) about progress of the Government's arrangements for the visit of President Reagan.

Mrs Thatcher replied that President Reagan was to be the guest of the Queen at Windsor Castle. As announced on March 25, he

had also made certain other dispositions.

Mr Foot: Will she answer the immediate point? Questions of British intelligence are concerned in these waters and the House tomorrow as many of my ministers have had to do before? Mrs Thatcher: Not so, but I am told that the Argentine was operating (Labour shouts "No") — information that I myself know and the action which I myself took at the time when I received it.

Sir Paul Bryant (Howden, C): Is she not encouraged by the support this country has received at the United Nations and throughout the free world on the issue of the Falklands Islands crisis taken by the Argentine? Mrs Thatcher: Yes. There was a forceful resolution at the United Nations Security Council calling on the Argentine to withdraw.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, in a written reply about the ban on all imports from Argentina, said all import licences were built on existing arrangements were revoked with effect from midnight tonight (Tuesday).

She had been asked by Mr Robert Cryer (Keighley, Lab) about progress of the Government's arrangements for the visit of President Reagan.

Mrs Thatcher replied that President Reagan was to be the guest of the Queen at Windsor Castle. As announced on March 25, he

had also made certain other dispositions.

Mr Foot: Will she answer the immediate point? Questions of British intelligence are concerned in these waters and the House tomorrow as many of my ministers have had to do before? Mrs Thatcher: Not so, but I am told that the Argentine was operating (Labour shouts "No") — information that I myself know and the action which I myself took at the time when I received it.

Sir Paul Bryant (Howden, C): Is she not encouraged by the support this country has received at the United Nations and throughout the free world on the issue of the Falklands Islands crisis taken by the Argentine? Mrs Thatcher: Yes. There was a forceful resolution at the United Nations Security Council calling on the Argentine to withdraw.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, in a written reply about the ban on all imports from Argentina, said all import licences were built on existing arrangements were revoked with effect from midnight tonight (Tuesday).

She had been asked by Mr Robert Cryer (Keighley, Lab) about progress of the Government's arrangements for the visit of President Reagan.

Mrs Thatcher replied that President Reagan was to be the guest of the Queen at Windsor Castle. As announced on March 25, he

had also made certain other dispositions.

Mr Foot: Will she answer the immediate point? Questions of British intelligence are concerned in these waters and the House tomorrow as many of my ministers have had to do before? Mrs Thatcher: Not so, but I am told that the Argentine was operating (Labour shouts "No") — information that I myself know and the action which I myself took at the time when I received it.

Sir Paul Bryant (Howden, C): Is she not encouraged by the support this country has received at the United Nations and throughout the free world on the issue of the Falklands Islands crisis taken by the Argentine? Mrs Thatcher: Yes. There was a forceful resolution at the United Nations Security Council calling on the Argentine to withdraw.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, in a written reply about the ban on all imports from Argentina, said all import licences were built on existing arrangements were revoked with effect from midnight tonight (Tuesday).

She had been asked by Mr Robert Cryer (Keighley, Lab) about progress of the Government's arrangements for the visit of President Reagan.

Mrs Thatcher replied that President Reagan was to be the guest of the Queen at Windsor Castle. As announced on March 25, he

had also made certain other dispositions.

Mr Foot: Will she answer the immediate point? Questions of British intelligence are concerned in these waters and the House tomorrow as many of my ministers have had to do before? Mrs Thatcher: Not so, but I am told that the Argentine was operating (Labour shouts "No") — information that I myself know and the action which I myself took at the time when I received it.

Sir Paul Bryant (Howden, C): Is she not encouraged by the support this country has received at the United Nations and throughout the free world on the issue of the Falklands Islands crisis taken by the Argentine? Mrs Thatcher: Yes. There was a forceful resolution at the United Nations Security Council calling on the Argentine to withdraw.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, in a written reply about the ban on all imports from Argentina, said all import licences were built on existing arrangements were revoked with effect from midnight tonight (Tuesday).

She had been asked by Mr Robert Cryer (Keighley, Lab) about progress of the Government's arrangements for the visit of President Reagan.

Mrs Thatcher replied that President Reagan was to be the guest of the Queen at Windsor Castle. As announced on March 25, he

had also made certain other dispositions.

Mr Foot: Will she answer the immediate point? Questions of British intelligence are concerned in these waters and the House tomorrow as many of my ministers have had to do before? Mrs Thatcher: Not so, but I am told that the Argentine was operating (Labour shouts "No") — information that I myself know and the action which I myself took at the time when I received it.

Sir Paul Bryant (Howden, C): Is she not encouraged by the support this country has received at the United Nations and throughout the free world on the issue of the Falklands Islands crisis taken by the Argentine? Mrs Thatcher: Yes. There was a forceful resolution at the United Nations Security Council calling on the Argentine to withdraw.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, in a written reply about the ban on all imports from Argentina, said all import licences were built on existing arrangements were revoked with effect from midnight tonight (Tuesday).

She had been asked by Mr Robert Cryer (Keighley, Lab) about progress of the Government's arrangements for the visit of President Reagan.

Mrs Thatcher replied that President Reagan was to be the guest of the Queen at Windsor Castle. As announced on March 25, he

had also made certain other dispositions.

Mr Foot: Will she answer the immediate point? Questions of British intelligence are concerned in these waters and the House tomorrow as many of my ministers have had to do before? Mrs Thatcher: Not so, but I am told that the Argentine was operating (Labour shouts "No") — information that I myself know and the action which I myself took at the time when I received it.

Sir Paul Bryant (Howden, C): Is she not encouraged by the support this country has received at the United Nations and throughout the free world on the issue of the Falklands Islands crisis taken by the Argentine? Mrs Thatcher: Yes. There was a forceful resolution at the United Nations Security Council calling on the Argentine to withdraw.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, in a written reply about the ban on all imports from Argentina, said all import licences were built on existing arrangements were revoked with effect from midnight tonight (Tuesday).

She had been asked by Mr Robert Cryer (Keighley, Lab) about progress of the Government's arrangements for the visit of President Reagan.

Mrs Thatcher replied that President Reagan was to be the guest of the Queen at Windsor Castle. As announced on March 25, he

had also made certain other dispositions.

Mr Foot: Will she answer the immediate point? Questions of British intelligence are concerned in these waters and the House tomorrow as many of my ministers have had to do before? Mrs Thatcher: Not so, but I am told that the Argentine was operating (Labour shouts "No") — information that I myself know and the action which I myself took at the time when I received it.

Sir Paul Bryant (Howden, C): Is she not encouraged by the support this country has received at the United Nations and throughout the free world on the issue of the Falklands Islands crisis taken by the Argentine? Mrs Thatcher: Yes. There was a forceful resolution at the United Nations Security Council calling on the Argentine to withdraw.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, in a written reply about the ban on all imports from Argentina, said all import licences were built on existing arrangements were revoked with effect from midnight tonight (Tuesday).

She had been asked by Mr Robert Cryer (Keighley, Lab) about progress of the Government's arrangements for the visit of President Reagan.

Mrs Thatcher replied that President Reagan was to be the guest of the Queen at Windsor Castle. As announced on March 25, he

had also made certain other dispositions.

Mr Foot: Will she answer the immediate point? Questions of British intelligence are concerned in these waters and the House tomorrow

S given
ars West

OVERSEAS NEWS

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 7 1982

الجلد 150

7

Haig rejects freeze on nuclear arms

Frankfurt, April 6. — Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said today that a proposed freeze on new nuclear weapons would put Western civilization at risk and increase the likelihood of global devastation.

In the most comprehensive statement so far of the Reagan Administration's nuclear arms policy, Mr Haig said: "The non-communist world must reject a freeze and avoid the extremes of nuclear catastrophe and nuclear blackmail."

"By maintaining the military balance and sustaining deterrence, we protect the essential values of Western civilization... and preserve the peace," he said.

"In failing to maintain deterrence, we would risk Moscow's freedom to choose the level of conflict which most suited it, and to leave entirely to Soviet discretion the nature and timing of any escalation; we would be forced to maintain conventional forces at least at the level of those of the Soviet Union and its allies," he said.

He repeated administration arguments that freezing American and Soviet nuclear arsenals at existing levels would perpetuate an unstable and unequal military balance, reward a decade of unilateral Soviet buildup and remove all Soviet incentive to engage in meaningful arms control designed to cut armaments and reduce the risk of war.

Western deterrence depended upon its ability even after suffering a huge nuclear blow, to prevent an aggressor from securing military advantage.

A pledge not to use nuclear weapons first would also require military conscription, the tripling of American armed forces and putting the economy on a wartime footing to counterbalance the Soviet's conventional advantages and geopolitical position in Europe, he said.

The Administration has also been trying to regain the initiative in world public opinion that American officials concede has been captured by President Brezhnev in recent weeks.

President Reagan called for dramatic reductions in nuclear arms in a press conference last week, and at another session with reporters yesterday he invited

Islamic challenge to Christians

Inquisition ghosts haunt Andalusia

From Our Correspondent, Seville, April 6

Nearly half a millennium after the Catholic monarchs ousted the last of the Moorish kings, Boabdil, from his elegant fortress-palace of the Alhambra, a young Spaniard is to go on trial in a case which summons up memories of the Inquisition and which has drawn Christian and Muslim scribes into bitter combat in the land Boabdil knew as Al Andalus.

In the early morning hours of April 4, 1982, as robed and hooded penitents filed by to dirge-like music during a Holy Week procession in the Andalusian city of Seville, their shadows projected like ghosts from the past in the light of the candles they bore, two young men tossed leaflets into the air.

Curious spectators picked them up and read: "These costumes are the costumes of the Inquisition. You are celebrating mass murder and honouring masked killers. Islamic Andalusia was free, the Andalusia — later came the assassins in peaked caps. This procession commemorates the Inquisition and its morbid symbols of terrorism and wholesale slaughter".

Two policemen hustled the youths off to the nearest police station. There Mr Tijour Nur — or Benny Lee Jackson, according to his American passport, was interrogated and held for 15 days. Bail, reportedly amounting to 58,000 pesetas (£270) was paid and he left. He has never been heard from since.

The other young man, Señor al-Nur Coca Dominguez, was interrogated for two days, allegedly about his religion, then released on 100,000 pesetas (£541) bail.

Señor Coca Dominguez, a native Spaniard, a schoolteacher and a convert to the teachings of Mohammed is expected to be brought to trial soon in Seville on a charge of "disrespect and outrageous behavior towards religion". He faces a sentence of up to one year and one day if convicted, in addition to a six-year ban on

Britain opposes EEC workers' rights plan

From Ian Murray, Brussels, April 6

Britain stood out alone today against proposals for a Community-wide scheme intended to give workers in multinationals and large companies the right to consultation and employment protection.

An informal meeting of employment ministers in Brussels took a preliminary look at the idea. While most countries wanted to await Parliament's decision on the matter, Mr Norman Tebbit, the British Minister, made it clear that legally binding measures on the subject were contrary to the approach of his Government.

Mr Tebbit said that the Government favoured good relations between managers



Embrace of leaders: Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, during a private audience with the Pope yesterday.

Move to close PLO office in Paris

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, April 6

The assassination of a diplomatic privileges and is mentioned the closing down of the PLO representation. But a few hours later the Israeli Embassy denied this.

The Government seems determined to resist this pressure. M. Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister emphasized that the PLO must be presumed innocent so long as there was no proof to the contrary.

"Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Several thousand people demonstrated last night outside the PLO office in the district of Passy, in response to a call of the League Against Racism and of leading Jewish organizations. There were no incidents, although the atmosphere was tense.

The PLO office in Paris was closed on October 17, 1975, and its staff does not enjoy any special or diplomatic status; but its head, being on the Arab diplomatic list, does have

call on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Several thousand people demonstrated last night outside the PLO office in the district of Passy, in response to a call of the League Against Racism and of leading Jewish organizations. There were no incidents, although the atmosphere was tense.

The PLO office in Paris was closed on October 17, 1975, and its staff does not enjoy any special or diplomatic status; but its head, being on the Arab diplomatic list, does have

call on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not

verbally.

Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who

had been called on him today had not</p

Henry Fairlie reports on the surge of pro-British feeling in Washington over the Falklands

By jingo, we're all rooting for you

Members of the numerous but not usually very gregarious British community in Washington were by last Saturday closing ranks. Expatriates who have not thought of home for years met and abruptly asked each other if they had yet enlisted. Even those who have all but renounced their allegiance to the Queen for the pecuniary rewards of working as an international civil servant in the World Bank had a rush of blood to their heads.

A rather dour acquaintance, who one has always suspected must have come here after being cashiered from the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers for an unspeakable offence, brightened appreciably as he said: "I did not think that there would ever again be the occasion to fight for the empire". Another waxed with indignation as he corrected an American: "By God, man, do you not understand that it is a crown colony?"

There were 50 princesses in the city on Saturday, each from a different state, celebrating the annual cherry blossom festival. But not even they could compete with the news which, with pardonable exaggeration, was whispered through the crowds on Constitution Avenue: "Prince Andrew is leading the Queen's Navee". It was an affecting day for Her Majesty's subjects here but what mattered more was how it affected the Americans.

We had steeled ourselves to meet the attempts at graceless and disparaging humour. In the opening to almost every story the Falkland Islands were described as "remote" or "obscure". Washington's own and very funny political satirist, Mr Mark Russell, a nightclub performer, was appearing at a private party on Saturday. He began by suggesting that Mr Alexander Haig had difficulty in finding where the islands were.

An Englishman shouted a warning that HMS Invincible was on its way. It was a shot across Mr Russell's bows, which he seemed deliberately to mishear.

"HMS Principal?" he queried with a snif. "Did he mean 'HMS Principal'?" Backed by the hums of a few or our countrymen, even less numerous than the garrison on the Falklands, the Englishman warned that they were an advance naval party.

It seemed clear that we were to be met only "with scoffs, and scorns, and contumelious taunts". But when Mr Russell at last came to sing his diry about the evil aggression, he had a pleasant and even exhilarating surprise in his four stanzas. He writes his new material in response to the day's events quickly. But not even he could have altered his song on his feet as a result of the shot across his bows.

He had set his words to a jaunty, rather Gladstone-and-Sullivan martial air, but not one word failed to punch home. In his first

had discovered that the invasion was an Irish plot. There could have been no more unexpected or funnier ending. But the laughter which erupted also carried wave after wave of resounding cheers. Unmistakably they were anti-Argentine and pro-British. The Englishman who had led the first assault with his small band felt like Sir Roger Keyes at Zeebrugge.

The party was being held to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the opening of a bar near the White House, used mainly by politicians and journalists and those who hang about the margins of both professions. Therefore most of the packed audience were regulars who are politically sensitive, which means that their reactions may not be characteristic of ordinary Americans. But it no less means that they are interesting.

One could feel the two unmistakable sentiments being woven together by Mr Russell: the surge of pro-British feeling that simply warmed the cockles of one's heart; and the release of a pent-up impatience and disgust with all the shabby dictatorships of Latin America. The mastery in Mr Russell's song was precisely the linking of Britain's stand against the Nazis who fled to Argentina to all the wretched South American dictatorships.

Even if the audience was politically uncharismatic in its sophistication and sensitivity, it was composed mostly of people who to some degree both register and form public opinion. There is a growing distaste and resentment in the United States at the way the Administration seem willing to truckle to any corrupt and violent regime if only it can present right-wing credentials to satisfy Mr Reagan.

If the British throw the Argentines out of the Falkland Islands, more Americans than perhaps Mr Reagan realizes will stand up and cheer. They cheered and even marvelled when the British in one afternoon repossessed an embassy in London, while all the power of

the US could not get its own people out of its own embassy in Teheran. They will cheer again if the British, in a famous metaphor, now hit the Argentines for six.

One returns then to the serious expressions of opinions here. The newspapers begin by making allowance for what *The New York Times* calls "the comic-opera aspects of the event". *The Washington Post* on Sunday could not decide how to place these comic aspects. On its front page, it referred to the whole affair as "a cross between a nineteenth century melodrama and a Peter Sellers farce". In its editorial, it said that the crisis has "an Alst Guinness quality".

But before *The Washington Post* discovers that it is all much more like Margaret Rutherford in an Agatha Christie film — or the *Goons* Show or even *Itma*, if its memory stretched back so far — one must read on to what these solemn organs of opinion have really said in the intensity of their first animadversions. They are clearly and firmly pro-British and anti-Argentine, and add the weight to Mr Russell's act and his audience's response.

Mrs Thatcher needs the voice of Elizabeth I to her army at Tilbury...

The Washington Post says: "The British do not appear to be in a mood to be pushed around. The Brits have nothing to apologize for in the Falklands". It goes on: "Argentina committed aggression. By doing so it removes itself from consideration as an American partner in other hemispheric matters". What one must notice again are the complementary wishes that Argentina and not Britain should be humiliated.

The New York Times says of Argentina: "Beyond that, the Administration will have to think

seriously about its relations with a regime that, for all its verbal tirades against communism, provides grain and comfort to the Soviet Union, but mains human rights embarrassments and military armaments to western friends". All of these reactions are vital. The British need to realize that they do not only have sympathy here but can have support.

This is a time for the British Government to play skilfully but with candour on American opinion. Having launched a large naval force, it must intend and be seen to be intending the exercise of power it represents.

Her Majesty's Ministers cannot let Prince Andrew lead the charge — for that is the symbol on which Americans have fixed — and then order him to retreat like the Grand Old Duke of York.

Britain can command wide popular and deeply informed support here. It cannot pursue its ends only through an American Administration which is both soiled and tied its bands in Latin America. There is a potential public support for Britain here as it has not really existed since the Suez operation. If the Americans cannot win these days, then, by jingo, they are rooting for the British to win.

What is needed from Mrs Thatcher is the voice of Queen Elizabeth I to her army at Tilbury: "I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too, and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe should dare to invade the borders of my realm; to which, rather than any dishonour shall grow by me, I myself will take up arms".

And I may also be allowed to speak for the British company here: "Your Majesty, your royal subjects here are ready, a small contingent, but with our broad swords, last used at Marston Moor in defence of the Crown, already taken from the walls.

© Times Newspapers Limited, 1982

One person one vote: the only way for Labour

Democracy is breaking out all over the Labour Party, but in some unexpected and certainly unplanned ways. That is the main finding of the first report to be published on how constituencies voted in last year's deputy leadership contest. Today, the report goes to Labour's NEC with a request for action.

It was the famous Wembley Conference which decided on a change in how Labour's leaders should be elected. In place of a franchise limited to MPs, power was to be shared with the trade unions and constituency parties.

No decision was taken on how the voting should be conducted. In these two sections, although it was the intention of some to limit the constituency party's franchise to the small core of activists who make up each local party's governing body — the general committee. That is not how the reform has worked out in practice.

After all the ballyhoo of electing the deputy leader had died down, we wrote in Labour's three weeklies asking for information on parties who extended the franchise beyond the hard core of activists. Forty-nine constituencies replied.

Twenty-one constituencies organized a one person, one vote system because they believed this was the only way party members would be able to have a say in the contest. Some members argued against the postal ballot on the grounds that an important principle was at stake and that only those who were prepared to give the minimum support of coming to a meeting should be allowed to vote.

Most of the 21 constituencies organized a postal vote. Three constituencies organized a ballot on the basis of local and general-election procedures. Postal balloting certainly led to a higher turn-out, involving often more than two-thirds of the membership.

A total of 19 constituencies carried out branch ballots, but, surprisingly, there was no single way branches undertook to consult their members.

Some branches invited people to the branch meeting, and those unable to attend gained a say at the branch meeting, but allowed a postal ballot for those unable to come. Others organized the vote at their regular branch meeting and took the ballot box round to those members not in attendance. There was variation, too, on how the votes were cast at the branch meeting. Some branches conducted a secret ballot while others had a show of hands.

Some branches organized transport for members who would otherwise be unable to come, and this kind of offer, together with how well the branch organized itself, helps to account for the difference in turn-out at branch meetings. One branch reported a turn-out of 77 per cent of those eligible to vote, while another recorded a turn-out as low as 20 per cent.

Nine parties held a mass meeting of members to decide their choice for deputy leader. Most made it a big event with a number of attractions other than voting for the deputy leader.

One of the unexpected consequences of the electoral college is that it has brought into being different classes of ordinary Labour Party members in leadership contests and those who cannot. Some members are given the vote in leadership contests while others are disfranchised unless they are on the local party's general committee.

The NEC needs to act to ensure that all party mem-

bers have equal rights in electing the leadership. The only way forward is for the NEC to back the principle of one person, one vote and to lay down guidelines on how votes should be cast in the constituency section before any future contest is held in the electoral college.

Our survey showed there are four important issues on which the NEC should rule:

(i) Who is eligible. Many parties reported difficulty in deciding who was and who was not eligible to vote. Some decided that members had to be of 12 months' standing, others of six months standing, while some parties settled for anybody who held a current membership card.

(ii) How to count. There was also a wide variation on how the votes were counted when they were counted once they were counted.

(iii) What timetable. It is important to lay down a timetable for future contests. Not only is this desirable so that campaigns don't rumble on for six or more months, but it is also crucial in getting information to local members. One constituency reported that those branches which met early in the month decided their votes before the literature from candidates arrived.

(iv) Rigging the result. In view of the lack of ground rules some constituency parties behaved less than openly. One party member wrote to say that there were no mention of the leadership contest at his branch meeting until she raised the question.

Without clear ground rules the classes are that poorer members will be excluded. We know that the poor are less likely to attend meetings than other people, and in these, as in other circumstances, a postal vote is essential. Indeed, this was the view to which some members came after they had organized a branch ballot.

After completing our survey other parties told us that this too, had extended the franchise to ordinary members. And already a number of parties which did not do so last time have decided to ballot all their members in any future contest. Most Britons regard one person, one vote as the basic way for making democratic decisions.

This principle is now being firmly rooted in the electoral college. The NEC should issue guidelines to encourage its spread to all constituency parties and standardise the form of the election procedure.

David Cowling and Frank Field

David Cowling is research assistant to Mr Peter Shore.

Frank Field is Labour MP for Birkenhead.

Postal ballot

The man who came up with a corker

by Alan Hamilton



Comic turns: left, the first issue of *The Dandy* in 1937, and right, the 1982 version. Can you tell the difference?

months later by an equally famous stablemate, *Beano*. Only Desperate Dan and Korky the Cat survive from the original cast of characters. Keyhole Kate and Hungry Horace are no more, and another early character, and unfortunately named, named Invisible Dickie has disappeared. But the style has changed little. Simple, identifiable characters tripping through bananas skin and water pistol humour scoring points over parents, teachers and policemen. But no-one ever really gets hurt. "There is never any real violence, only the cartoon

kind to be found in *Tom and Jerry* where the victim always comes back unharmed", Barnes said. It gives children a chance to cock a haughty snook at authority, and sublimate their desires to kick against the traces. Sex, religion and politics are, of course, out altogether." Well, more or less. Black Bob, the *Dandy* wonder dog, was recently kidnapped and taken to Argentina, adding fuel to the suspicion that deep down, Argentines have come dread of going to the dentist. I think there is still room for fun. And of course it is good fun when you have

thrown at it in the pages of *The Dandy*. The editor of a police magazine once protested that Korky the Cat was undermining respect for the forces of law and order, when he was shown saluting a policeman with a mouse emerging from a trapdoor in his helmet.

Deserts can be sensitive too. Barnes said "We do not deliberately show a dentist with a book on a patient's chest. But I think it is legitimate to show a kid in

the dentist's chair with a

teacher falling downstairs and losing half his teeth, being carried off to the dentist, and coming back with his head swathed in bandages. Of course in the next edition he has all his teeth again. It's better than recovery."

The early *Dandy* was half

picture strips and half text,

but it long ago abandoned the

page of words. "Television, and the consequent lack of a child's urge to read, were responsible for that," Barnes says with regret.

Television, he believes, has

been responsible for a major

shrinkage of the entire

backside.

D.C. Thomson's chief sub-editor, David Torrie, will hope for a regular supply of 16-year-olds ready to enter its world of biffs, yikes and earights, of Greedy Pig and Screwdriver, where everyone ends with an exclamation mark and the height of violence is a slipper on the backside.

Barnes's successor, former

editor of *Dandy*, Maxwell Davies and Harrison Burwhistle, BS 4754 applies only to the way scores and parts are presented.

Scores to British standard will

be clear enough for

double bass players to read

without straining forward; printed



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS

While British ships steam south through the Atlantic and the Argentines continue their efforts to fortify the islands there will be a great deal of diplomatic activity. Among other things, Britain and Argentina will be trying to rally support for their case. But it will also be a good time to consider not only what should be done when the task force reaches the Falklands but also what Britain hopes to achieve thereafter.

The immediate objective is quite clear. It is to reverse the fait accompli imposed on the islands last Friday, and in the process to show General Galtieri that such naked acts of aggression are wholly unacceptable. That is of the greatest importance. There are small countries and territories in many parts of the world, not least in Latin America itself which would be at risk if it was felt that the generals in Buenos Aires had got away with this invasion. They chose to send troops against a small and defenceless people, the citizens of a country with which they had apparently friendly relations and with which they were holding negotiations for a peaceful settlement.

But once an Argentine withdrawal has been achieved, either through diplomacy or by force, that still leaves the question of the future of the Falklands. Do we want to maintain them indefinitely as a British possession, comparable to an Isle of Man 8,000 miles away, regardless of the

cost? Or do we take the view that in the long run they are too far away and too unimportant, and that they should therefore be eased into some sort of congenial relationship with Argentina? The second course is the one which has been followed in recent years, by both Conservative and Labour governments. It led to a situation in which the islands were very much dependent on the good will of Argentina, even before last Friday's attack. Apart from a ship which sailed from Tilbury four times a year, the only regular communications with the outside world were the weekly flights to and from Comodoro Rivadavia provided by the Argentine Air Force.

That was not a bad policy in itself. Admittedly it had the disadvantage of giving General Galtieri and his colleagues the impression that the British government was anxious to be rid of the Falklands, which may have encouraged them to miscalculate. But the miscalculation was not an inevitable result of the policy. If the British government had shown at an earlier stage that it was determined to defend the islands there could still have been progress.

Much will now depend on the circumstances in which, if all goes well, the Argentines are induced to depart. If they have been humiliated, they will remain uncooperative for some time. Britain will then have to maintain an active defence of the islands against

a possible new attempt at invasion and also replace the services which were provided by Argentina before the invasion. It can be done. It would have to be done. But it would be an expensive commitment to maintain over a long period.

At some point, therefore, it will be necessary to try to restore links between the islands and Argentina. This will not be easy, especially if there has been fighting. Obviously diplomatic relations would have to be restored first. But it would not be the first time in history that a showdown, whether diplomatic or military, had clarified a relationship and in the period of reconstruction provided a more realistic basis for negotiation. At all times, however, we would have to face up to the possibility that such attempts would be unsuccessful. Our future policy for the Falklands can never again be allowed to depend on an Argentine veto.

It is not too early to look ahead in this way, even though the immediate future is murky. Britain did not seek or provoke a conflict with Argentina and has no wish for a long period of hostility. It must assert its rights and the principles of international law without compromise but at the same time it should make clear its desire to return as soon as possible to normal relations with Argentina. This can be achieved only if the Argentines have the same aim. The burden of proof now lies with them.

WHO'S AFRAID OF A BIG BAD BALLOT?

Of all the days of the year to select to beat the drum for a national campaign which has been slow to catch fire, Monday must have been among the most unlucky. With the fleet sailing off to glory and ministers tumbling, the country had little attention to spare for the metaphorical militancy on display at the TUC's special conference on the Employment Bill. "There will be risks, there may be casualties, we may get knocks, but we will give as good as we get", declared Mr. Murray, with native caution setting his sights before battle rather lower than Mrs Thatcher was doing elsewhere.

The programme of action against the Bill, agreed with acclaim by all but a few of the unions represented, is also anything but bloodthirsty. The TUC General Council drafted it with concern not to encourage the movement's aircraft carriers to steer outside the territorial waters of legality. This showed good sense, but can have done little to persuade ordinary trade unionists with more urgent anxieties about the security of their jobs that the proposed reforms seriously amount to "a manifesto for a union-free society", as Mr Murray put it. He rejected a policy of using industrial action to bring a government down undemocratically. Other speakers, like Mr Arthur Scargill and Mr Joe Wade disregarded his lead and spoke uninhibitedly about the possibility of breaking the law in the struggle against the Bill. Major campaigns of industrial action against it, as

advocated by a number of delegates, would be illegal within the terms of the Bill itself, even if not of the existing laws on political strikes and secondary action. The Bill is deeply drafted to minimise the need for active union co-operation: it will exist and influence their calculations and actions whether they like it or not, and even if employers prove reluctant, as they often may, to go to court on the strength of its provisions.

The prevailing atmosphere made Mr Murray sound pallid, and the voices which urged the dangers of a long and costly campaign embarked on without strong rank and file support were few and faint. One of the most revealing phrases of the day came when Mr Murray described the Bill as an attempt to "drive a wedge between unions and their members. Some of its provisions, in particular those designed to encourage unions to test by ballot whether existing closed shops still command support among members, can indeed claim to be so. But a rift has to exist before a wedge can be driven into it, and the unpopularity of the closed shop, as well as of other equally rough and ready means of imposing union discipline, is widespread inside the movement as well as out. It is a standing reproach to the trade unions that the abandonment of such practices should need to wait for a vote on the strength of its provisions.

The truth is that the Bill is modest in its scope and its likely effects. While this hampers the campaign to present it as a threat to trade unionism as such, it also means that many reforms which would still further improve accountability have been omitted. Only last week, Mr Norman Tebbit said that his mind was not fully closed to the possibility of adding a clause to encourage the use of strike ballots in place of the factory-gate votes which are so easily manipulated. Balloting for union elections is a reform whose effects might be even more profound. Even where it does occur, balloting today is too often inadequately supervised. In the short term, legislating on these matters might tend to add them to the category of things that trade unionists refuse to see any good in because Mr Tebbit favours them. It might also increase the scope for calculated defiance and the creation of martyrs; but nothing would do more to make the movement more truly representative. The longer term, advantages would thus be manifest. If the trade union leadership wants to claim that it truly represents its members, it would be more convincing if it did not object to measures which would provide evidence for that claim. Of course they fear the evidence would undermine their claim, and thus their leadership. Let us have the evidence by introducing much more provision for balloting, both about strikes, and about leadership.

The truth is that the Bill is

This offers customers seeking redress, a cheap and simple way of resolving disputes avoiding the need to make a personal appearance at a court. We are about to start discussions with British Telecom aimed at similar arrangements in respect of their legal liabilities under the BT Act.

We consider these arbitration facilities are an important feature of the machinery for dealing with customers' complaints and are pleased to have had some part in establishing them.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN MORGAN, Chairman,
Post Office Users' National
Council,
Waterloo Bridge House,
Waterloo Road, SE1.

Ecosystems

From Professor C. D. Pigott

Sir, Your correspondent Dr A. S. Thomas (March 17) in his strongly worded criticism of the term ecosystem shows that he does not understand its meaning. Perhaps he has forgotten, or perhaps never read, the article written by Sir Arthur Tansley in 1935 in which the word was introduced and defined with admirable clarity.

Tansley proposed the word to describe a particular level of organization of natural systems in which vegetation, animals and the physical environment are linked together by the transfer of energy and materials. Tansley recognized the difficulty of defining the boundaries of ecosystems for, in a sense, the world is an ecosystem, but he proposed that the term was more usefully applied to those much smaller systems in which net transfer of material across the boundaries is minimal.

For example, in an unexploited woodland the amount of carbon dioxide fixed by green plants may, over a period of a year, be balanced by the amount released by respiration of all the organisms in the woodland, so that net transfer in and out would be zero but, in fact, diffusive mixing of this gas in the atmosphere means that most ecosystems share a common reservoir.

Uptake of phosphate by the plants of the woodland may be almost entirely from the supply provided by decay, so that in this case the system may be virtually self-contained. Animals may indeed move in and out of the woodland yet their population averaged over a number of years may remain more or less constant. Ecosystems are not entirely self-contained, or "closed", and never could be because all depend on an input of solar energy and the eventual dissipation of this energy as heat.

By repeatedly using the word "may" I am, in fact, drawing attention to the value of recognizing ecosystems. By analysis of their structure and by measurement of the amounts of substances in their parts and of the rates of transfer the extent to which the system is in balance can be discovered. This provides essential information for the sensible exploitation of ecosystems, allowing their structure to be stabilized and their productivity maintained or even increased. An ecosystem is still an ecosystem even when it is not in equilibrium.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD PIGOTT,
Department of Biological
Sciences,
The University,
Lancaster,
Lancashire,
LA1 4YQ.

March 25.

Glue-sniffing and solvent abuse

From Mr N. C. MacDonald

Sir, Mr Allan Roberts, MP (report, April 1) is following a path trodden by well meaning politicians, in this country and overseas, in believing that the use of aversive additives in solvent-based products will eliminate or control solvent abuse.

To be acceptable any additive must meet three criteria: it should not enhance in any way the health risk of the preparation to which it is added; it should not interfere with the acceptability of a preparation by those who will use the preparation for its intended purpose. Finally, any additive should not detract from service performance of the preparation, and in this case we mean the adhesive strength.

My company has investigated the possible use of aversive additives, and volatile organic chemicals with characteristic nauseating odours are most commonly thought of in this connection; allyl isothiocyanate, which occurs naturally as a component of oil of mustard, has been used in adhesives in certain parts of the United States.

All evidence indicates that substances of this type are either ineffective at safe levels of use or have only a transient aversive effect at higher or more dangerous concentrations, as well as interfering with the normal use and performance of the adhesive to which they are added. In West Germany another type of so-called aversive agent was added to a solvent-based product as a panic reaction to an outbreak of solvent abuse in West Berlin. The result was an increase in the incidence of toxicity amongst smokers.

To suggest, as Mr Roberts does, that there is a paucity of information on the subject is to misrepresent the facts. My company's research has revealed around 300 references from many authoritative sources in this country and others.

At the same time we in the industry shall continue our search to develop alternative systems which are intrinsically safer from abuse and I would stress that this positive approach to the problem has been receiving attention in my company for several years. I should be gravely disturbed were we to tackle the symptoms of the malaise in a less than rational way, whilst ignoring the disease itself.

Yours sincerely,
N. C. MACDONALD,
Director (Technical),
Evode Limited,
Common Road,
Stafford.

Freedom of the media

From Mr Jacob Ecclestone

Sir, You will, I hope, allow me to reply to the letter (April 3) from Mr Farmer, General Secretary of the Institute of Journalists, concerning my refusal to admit your correspondent to cover our recent annual conference.

As a matter of policy my union asks other trade unions to admit only NUJ members to cover their meetings. We do so because the NUJ is a trade union in all senses of the word; the IOJ is not affiliated to either the TUC or the International Federation of Journalists and can make no such claim. It would, therefore, be absurdly inconsistent if we were to admit a member of the IOJ to report on our annual delegate meeting.

For Mr Farmer to assert that the leadership of the NUJ would use the closed shop in journalism "to silence opposition in the media to views endorsed by the union" is ludicrous. As he knows perfectly well, my union's own position is so independent of the NUJ leadership that it frequently makes life uncomfortable and embarrassing for us by exercising the freedom that such independence guarantees — an independence that recent events have shown is not enjoyed by many editors in Fleet Street.

That is only our domestic situation. The NUJ operates many closed shops already, including several in national newspapers, and in none of them could Mr Farmer find evidence to substantiate his allegations.

Yours etc,
JACOB ECCLESTONE,
General Secretary,
National Union of Journalists,
Acorn House,
314-320 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

April 5.

One nation

From Dr C. Goodson-Wicks

Sir, What better way is there to forge the One Nation that you see (leading article, March 30), than to reintroduce a form of national service?

Cooperation between white and black citizens in such a framework would surely go far to promote new and healthier attitudes at an impressionable age.

Yours faithfully,
C. GOODSON-WICKES,
95A Jermyn Street,
St James's, SW1.

April 5.

Ulster assembly plan

From Mr Tom Arnold, MP for Hazel Grove (Conservative)

Sir, The Prime Minister has made it clear on a number of occasions that Northern Ireland will remain a part of the United Kingdom for as long as that is the wish of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland. The guarantee is firm and should not be in doubt.

There is no immediate contradiction, therefore, between the Union and the preferred wish of the main Northern Ireland political parties to move in the direction of devolution.

Indeed, integration would of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Government failings in Falklands crisis

From General Sir Robert Ford (retired)

Sir, Looked at from the outside, but with some knowledge and experience of the workings of the machinery of government over a long period, it is difficult to come to any other conclusion than that the present tragedy in the Falkland Islands is largely the result of gross crisis mismanagement.

This was sometimes, I fear, for political and economic reasons and one also received the impression that certain senior civil servants and Foreign Office officials wished this to be so. A few months ago, when I questioned a senior civil servant on this matter, he defended the changes which had taken place on the grounds that capabilities and commitments were almost entirely devoted to Nato and other colonial commitments and that ours had virtually disappeared there was no requirement now for the Prime Minister and senior ministers of the DOPC to have regular personal advice from the Chiefs of Staff.

I have a high regard for my late senior Civil Service colleagues, but they are not qualified to prefer military advice. Nor is

the Secretary of State for Defence qualified to put forward military judgment to the Cabinet subcommittee without the attendance of the professional heads of the Armed Services. Of course, civil servants can properly inform ministers of the financial and budgetary implications and options but the machinery of government should always allow for the Chiefs of Staff to consider views to be available to this vital committee on a regular basis.

Experience testifies to the increasing tolerance and understanding among the laity in both churches, coupled with a real desire for reconciliation. In recent years an increasing number of Anglicans visiting the Continent attend a Catholic Mass as communicants and are not discouraged from doing so. Even in England Anglicans are welcomed as communicants at a nuptial Mass or a requiem Mass.

Conversely, though less frequently, Catholics from Europe attend Anglican cathedrals and churches as communicants. The decision for any individual is a matter of conscience. This practice develops a recognition of how much our two churches have in common.

One hopes that, with the forthcoming papal visit, the momentum already established will not be lost. An initiative for a tangible step forward might well be a study of the case for a mutual reconciliation of ministers.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT FORD,
Cavalry and Guards Club,
127 Piccadilly, W1.
April 4.

it's current naval policy is fraught with danger. If Mr Foot fails to heed this warning then he should be replaced by a minister who will appreciate the maritime tradition and capabilities of this country and who will reverse the lamentable run-down of the Royal Navy.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. FREEMAN,
12 Tenison Avenue,
Cambridge.
April 4.

From Mr Giles Chichester

Sir, Fifteen years ago my late father sailed around Cape Horn, safe in the knowledge that the Falkland Islands would be a British haven should the need arise.

We must not fail our people of the Falklands now their peaceful land has been rudely invaded. No effort should be spared diplomatically, economically or militarily to see justice done.

As a nation we cannot afford to duck this challenge, for who knows who next will regard us as a soft touch if we do?

Yours faithfully,
GILES CHICHESTER,
Francis Chichester Ltd,
9 St James's Place, SW1.
April 5.

From Mrs Laure Laycock

Sir, "Somehow, some time, the Argentine forces must be forced to leave the Falklands. We have the full authority of a Security Council resolution to support that proposition" (The Times, April 5).

For Argentine, read Cyprus. What price diplomacy, what price guarantees, and what price the resolve of the international community, eight years after?

Yours faithfully,
L. LAYCOCK,
13A Richmond Mansions,
Old Brompton Road, SW5.

From Mrs Rosemary Goring

Sir, Now that the Falkland islanders are, for the time being at least, under Argentine rule they will presumably have to start learning the Argentine national anthem. This is a stirring composition, with a revolutionary flavour not unlike that of the Marseillaise, or the first four lines run more or less as follows:

O mortals, hear the sacred cry,
Liberty, liberty, liberty!
Hear the sound of breaking chains,
And see, enthroned, Equality.

One imagines that the islanders will rend these lines with more ordinary fervour.

Yours,
ROSEMARY GORING,
Little Wood,
Rushlake Green,
Heathfield, Sussex.
April 3.

From Sir Maxwell Joseph

Sir, The Government has succeeded in turning a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta into a Wagnerian tragedy.

Yours faithfully,
MAX JOSEPH,
1 York Gate,
Regents Park, NW1.

population without fully satisfying the other; it would for that reason be more likely to inflame the security situation rather than to diminish tension. Integration would not reassure the majority population since most unionists see devolution as the best safeguard for their own particular lifestyle and culture; and it would set back constructive relationships with the Republic of Ireland and important sections of United States opinion.

Yours faithfully,
TOM ARNOLD,
House of Commons.
April 1.

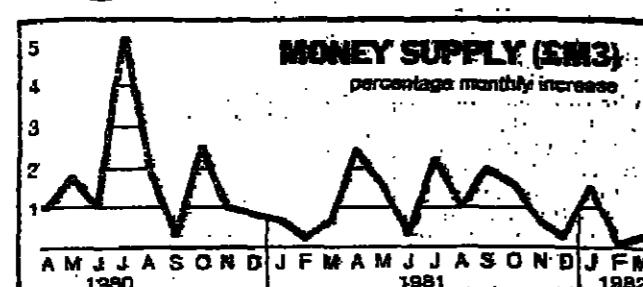
Plans for church unity move

From Lord Fletcher

Sir, My friend the Bishop of Norwich (April 3) does less than justice to the final report of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission. His purported quotation from page 84 of the report is misleading as it stands. The words in brackets

BUSINESS NEWS

Slight rise in M3



Sterling M3, the broad definition of banking money, rose by an estimated 0.25 per cent on the four weeks to March 17, according to the Bank of England. Narrow money, M1, fell by 0.25 per cent and private sector liquidity (PSL) rose by 0.5 per cent. Sterling M3 has grown at an annual rate of 13% per cent since last February, and 8% per cent over the latest six months. The public sector, helped by £1,000m of back tax, had a contractionary effect on money last month, but bank lending to the private sector probably topped £1,000m. **Business Editor, page 15**

Europe gas reserve offer

The Netherlands' state-controlled gas company forecast yesterday that Western Europe would have to import nearly half its gas supplies by the year 2000 and offered its Groningen field as a reserve to give security of supply. Nederlandse Gasunie estimated that about 25 per cent of the supplies would come from the Soviet Union and that North Africa another 13 per cent. The company said the Groningen field could give Europe a safeguard against a cut-off in foreign gas. The United States is concerned over future reliance on Soviet gas.

\$50m Zimbabwe aid deal

Zimbabwe and the United States are due to sign a \$50m (£28.5m) aid agreement today which will enable the business sector in Zimbabwe to increase its imports from the United States. Diplomatic sources in Salisbury said the bulk of the aid would go to the private sector on Zimbabwe ensuring higher import quotas after two successive substantial cutbacks in import allocations.

Sugar exporters EEC complaint

Despite being thwarted through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in their four-year challenge to the European Community's export ban programme, the sugar exporting countries have reaffirmed their confidence in the Gatt dispute settlement system by launching a fresh complaint against the Community's subsidy system. The objectors, including Argentina, Brazil and Australia, are complaining that the system is causing them financial harm by depressing prices.

• The Council for the Securities Industry, the City's ultimate watchdog, has decided to allow companies involved in agreed takeover bids to buy as many shares as they wish in the target firm, seven days after the bid is announced. In a contested takeover, the predator cannot own more than 30 per cent of a target company until the first closing date.

MARKET SUMMARY

Recovery after early panic

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 552.0 down 6.9.
FT Gilt 66.53 down 1.12.
FT All share 315.98 down 6.10.
Bargains 29,258.

Political uncertainty continued to cast its shadow over the stock market where panic markdowns by jobbers pushed the FT Index down 17.6 by mid-morning, but with buyers returning to the market it was just 6.9 down at the close at 553.0.

A further wave of selling in the gilt market, though not as much as the previous day, saw long dated fall a new 52 after a rally on encouraging money supply figures with shorts showing losses of around 2%.

Once again it was companies with Argentinian connexions which were the heaviest casualties, with Unilever 18p off at 595p, and BAT shedding 13p to 40p. But Lloyd's Bank ended the day unchanged at 41p.

Blue Circle shedding 12p to 44p, and GEC 15p off at 802p were the leading falls among blue chips, but there were pleasant signs against Glaxo 4p better at 555p and GKN 1p firmer at 156p.

Bowater put on 1p to 239p after the group's 25 per cent boost in pretax profits to £107m exceeded most expectations.

Satisfaction with recent trading

COMMODITIES

• Afternoon copper values rallied again in sympathy with further strength in gold. Nervous speculators, after three months high grade metal to the day's high of 881p.

• Continued buying during the afternoon, which was generally believed to be on buffer stock account, took standard grade up to £7,370 and £7,400 respectively. Dealers said the buying seemed to be mostly prompted by the continued weakness of sterling against the dollar.

• Raw sugar futures closed slightly steeper, near the day's highs, between £0.75 and £0.75 per tonne above the previous day's close in traded positions.

TODAY

Sheikh Ahmed Yassani, Saudi Arabia's oil minister, will be chief guest at the annual dinner of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy in London tonight.

Board meetings. Interim: Photo-Me International, Scottish Cities Investment Trust, Walker and Homes, Finlays, A. C. Cars, Associated Book Publishers, Benford Concrete Machinery, Dorada, Expanded Metal, Fothergill and Harvey, Gill and Duffus, Humble Group, Lead Industries, Lee Refrigeration, Albert Mann, Phoenix Assurance, Portals, Austin Reed, Ruberoid, Stewart Wrightson, Sun Alliance and London Insurance, Tripleview, Ward White.

MONEY MARKETS

• Period rates were markedly firmer as sterling continued to fall. But condition at the short end remained comfortable. The Bank bought £67m of bills on a forecast shortage of £50m.

Domestic rates:

3 month dollar 15%—15%

3 month DM 9%—9%

3 month Ft 23%—22%

Bank steps in to smooth pound's fall

By Frances Williams

The financial markets suffered another severe bout of nerves yesterday over the economic and political ramifications of the Falklands crisis.

The pound dropped a further 1.5 cents to \$1.7495 in London, its lowest closing level since September 1977. Banks of England intervention to smooth its fall was noticeably heavier than usual, with estimates put it at around \$100m.

The pound's weakness hit the money markets and Government stocks. Some period rates rose by about 1/4 per cent, while long-dated gilt fell by a further £2 leases of up to £24 on Monday.

On the London stock market, £2,100m was wiped off the market value of shares and the FT index fell 6.3 to close at 553.0, making the fall over two days 18 points.

Only gold looked more cheerful. The price rose \$11.75 yesterday to \$349.50, a jump of \$2.50 since last Friday.

The pound was the centre of attention on the world's foreign exchange markets. Strong selling pressure was reported from all areas and all types of traders. Sterling dropped in fits and starts as dealers bid prices down, then awaited reaction. The Bank of England was thought to have intervened at several points during the day, chiefly on Monday.

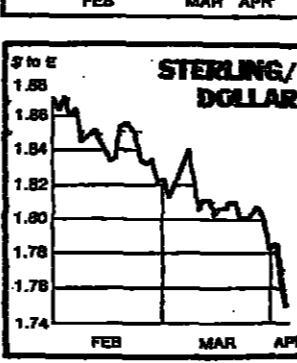
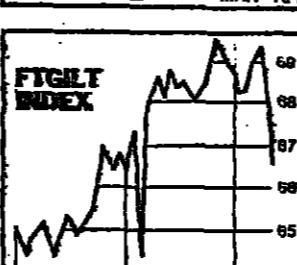
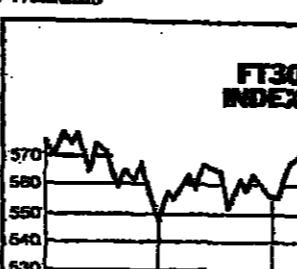
But the intervention, though substantial by recent standards, was well below crisis proportions.

The pound dropped sharply against other currencies as well as the dollar. It was down 6 pence to DM 4,250, while its trade-weighted index lost 0.9 to finish at 88.4, a drop of 1.6 since Friday and its lowest level since November.

In the money markets, short-term rates were a little easier, reflecting comfortable liquidity conditions. But period rates jumped by up to 1/4 point, with three-month interbank money, for instance, rising to 14 per cent.

Ladbrokes purchase

Ladbrokes has acquired the Dennis Leisure Group, which operates 73 betting shops in the North West, for £6,000. Payment of part of the purchase price will be deferred. Freehold properties valued in excess of £500,000 are included in the price.



from 13 1/4 per cent on Monday.

Nerves in the money markets were mirrored in the gilt market, where sustained selling brought substantial falls, despite better than expected money supply figures.

The fact that indexed gilts also lost ground, however, suggests that the markets were more concerned about the political repercussions of the crisis.

On the stock market, an early sharp fall of 17.6 was partly regained. Much of the fall was the result of jobbers marking down prices and relatively little business was done at these levels. By the end of the day, buyers were beginning to emerge.

ACC chiefs 'had use of villa in Portugal'

By Philip Robinson

Fresh allegations of the unfairly prejudicial to the shareholders.

It is backed by 13 institutions and the company which is making a takeover bid for ACC. TVW Enterprises, headed by Australian financier Mr Robert Holmes à Court, also chairman and chief executive of ACC.

The institutions have already decided to accept Mr Holmes à Court's offer with all but a few of their shares enable them to continue opposing Mr Gill's payoff.

The court action stands adjourned until May 10 when it is expected the pension fund will ask for ACC's private papers and confidential memos relating to the case to be given to the court.

Other allegations include the ordering of an eight-seater Cessna jet without payment, fees paid to directors via an American subsidiary, the procuring by Mr Gill of benefits for fellow ACC director Mr Ellis Birk, and a luxury flat above ACC's West End headquarters which was returned by Mr Gill for his own use.

The Post Office pension fund is opposing the payoff to Mr Gill and an option to buy his house at £104,000 for the non-voting shares and £4,40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

• The Post Office pension fund is opposing the payoff to Mr Gill and an option to buy his house at £104,000 for the non-voting shares and £4,40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.

Meanwhile the ACC directors yesterday recommended shareholders to accept the offer from Mr Holmes à Court, which close next Tuesday but could be extended. His first offer at 10p for the non-voting shares and 24.40 for the ordinary shares is conditional on it being accepted by holders of 90 per cent of the shares.</p

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

Going south with the fleet... Singing in the rainwear

The market is dominated by fear

Fear and greed are the most important motivation in the stock market (Sally White writes). This week fear dominated, as the Argentine invasion forces shook the British Government. But there were also a lot of technical factors that contributed to the shares' fall.

Yesterday was the first day of the tax year. Some selling came from investors who wanted to lock in profits. The Inland Revenue now allows each individual £5,000 of capital gains, up from £3,000. There is now more scope for tax saving.

It is the beginning of a three-week account that includes a long Bank Holiday. Investors who take a trading view were selling rather than risk being locked in over period of uncertainty created by rising United States interest rates.

Then the jobbers started the account slightly long of stock as recent trading had been good and the market seemed inclined to rise because of the improving wholesale price figures. They were very quick to mark down prices yesterday to avoid adding to stock at high prices.

Gilts were due to "consolidate" according to many brokers' recommendations — that is fall after recent rises. Institutions were cautious about buying.

Lastly, private client selling started the dive as panic set in about the stability of the Government. What sort of selling comprises volumes of small parcels of shares and has in the past started major downward spirals. Given that prospect institutions sold, too, just in case the market went south with the fleet.

Baird spots a silver lining

While the company's principal activities are in textiles and engineering the going is bound to be hard (Sally White writes). William Baird, the Glasgow-based textile and industrial group, is in that position, and warned shareholders at the half-way stage that it was finding life a struggle in this stage of the economic cycle. For the textile company had announced a net profit down from £2.6m to £1.7m on sales down from £152m to £151m. The final dividend is 7.5p, unchanged on increased capital, making 12.5p.

A breakdown of trading profit shows that the textile side is down from £6.1m to £4.5m and Darchem, the industrial side is down from £2.8m to £2.3m. While the share price fell slightly on its own account, as well as with the market generally, these results were expected.

Donald Parr, the company's new chairman, is cautious about prospects for this year, but market hopes are for £18m, to £16m at least, that would leave the yield at double figures — still just below 9 per cent — which is to be expected.

Donald Parr, the company's new chairman, is cautious about prospects for this year, but market hopes are for £18m, to £16m at least, that would leave the yield at double figures — still just below 9 per cent — which is to be expected.

Christies auction: lot to think about



A Christie's auction: lot to think about

day, it was announced that Brian Haggas has resigned as deputy chairman. Since he was associated with "tight cash" management, the market view is that investors could be cautious

Christies feels the pinch

The international art market has not proved quite as resilient as the first-half figures from the two major auction houses, Christies International and Sotheby's. Sotheby's was suggesting that Christies was already starting to feel the squeeze last year but Christies,

with its leaner cost structure, got by with only a one-tenth cut in profits.

The second half, however, has been much less kind to Christies with pre-tax profits in the period slumping two-fifths to £2.02m to leave the full year down by a quarter at £5.28m. With the stock market hoping to see Christies get through an admittedly very difficult year with perhaps no more than a £1.5m decline in profits, the shares eased 6p to 134p in a weak market generally.

They would probably have fared even worse, given the forecast of a drop in profits in the current half-year, but for the group's decision to maintain the dividend

at 10p a share gross. The 7.5 per cent yield is a couple of points better than that of Sotheby's.

Apart from the added pressure caused by Christie's decision last December to trim the buyers' premium from 10 to 8 per cent, reflected in the chairman's cautious assessment for the current six months, the main pressures have come on the cost front.

After a 10 per cent rise in auction sales in the first half, there was a fall in the second and for the whole year the total was a mere £10m. Ahead, at £18m compared with the double figure growth rates of previous years.

In addition, auction sales have tended to be in small lots rather than the lucrative headline-catching sales that have boosted profits in recent years.

The pre-tax total has also been rather flattered by higher interest income from the group's very robust balance sheet and foreign exchange gains of £759,000 arising from its interests in the United States and Switzerland.

As far as the immediate future is concerned, the key to Christies' success lies in the fact that costs should not be rising as steeply as Sotheby's, now that its overseas expansion is completed.

It still remains to be seen whether the two big houses survive the gloves really come off in the competition battle. At the moment Christies looks better placed but Sotheby's has surprised the art market as well, as the market in the past.

APPOINTMENTS
Insurance panel's new members

Mr R. E. Lake, general manager of British European Reinsurance, Mr T. Roberts, general manager of UK, General Accident Fire & Life Corporation, and Mr R. Sepal, managing director of Albany Life Assurance, have been named members of the Panel of Insurance Advisers. Mrs M. Turner, assistant general secretary, Association of Scientific Technical and Managerial Staffs, and Mr M. Weinberg, deputy chairman and joint managing director of Hanboro Life Assurance, have been reappointed to the panel.



Sir Jack Stewart-Clark, former managing director of Philips Electrical and Pye of Cambridge, has been appointed to the board of Low and Boorer. Sir Jack represents East Sussex in European Parliament.

Mr Charles W. Orange has been made finance director of AIA Holdings from June 1.

Mr M. Ridgway has been appointed to the board of the Burmash-Castrol Company as personnel director. Mr M. P. Ridgway has also been appointed to the board, he will be responsible for lubricants manufacturing and distribution operations.

Mr Michael Shearar has become managing director of the Charles Clark Motor Group.

Mr C. H. Stapleton has been appointed a director of GEC & Duffus Group. He is joint managing director of Pacol, one of the company's principal subsidiaries. Mr N. J. Cosh will be joining the company on May 1 and has been appointed to the board as a delivered cost above comparable coals from third countries.

External sales fell from £27.9m to £25.2m, but interest charges also declined, reflecting earlier rates, by more than £200,000 to £2.35m. But a sharp rise in taxation from £297,000 to £661,000 left profits after tax well down at £1.69m compared with £2.35m. A higher tax charge was largely due to a leap in defence provisions from a £27.00 credit to £144,000 debit.

Earnings per share consequently slipped from 56.4p to 40.5p, if the exceptional credit of £25,000 is excluded. But the current cost share shows earnings per share falling from 39.3p to 24p. The same accounts show pre-tax profits of £1.93m against £1.93m in 1980.

Far from costing the taxpayer money, the extra business has enabled the NCB to avoid the costs involved in stocking coal that would otherwise have gone unsold, and has generated large cash income, Sir Derek says.

He claims it is the only way the board could meet its financial targets set by the Government.

Mr Ian Brash of the Crown Cork Co. has been elected chairman of the executive committee of the British Aerosol Manufacturers' Association. He succeeds Mr George Hodgson who has resigned as chairman of the association. Mr Michael O'Donnovan of Beecham Proprietary has been elected vice-chairman. He was previously chairman of the Association's Marketing & External Relations Committee. Mr Anthony Bracking of Johnson Wax has been appointed the new chairman of this committee.

COMMODITIES

COPPER: higher. Grade copper was steady. Afternoon. Higher grade cash sales. 4,620. Sales: 1,821-1,832.00. Three months. 27,370. Sales: 27,370. Higher grade cash. 2847.50-3047.50. Three months. 2948.50. Sales: 27,325. Cash standard cathodes. 2845.50-3050. Sales: 1,000 tonnes.

TIN: Standard tin closed firmer. Afternoon. Higher grade cash sales. 1,151. Higher three months. 27,355. Sales: 7,355. 7,370. Sales: 1,821. Jones. Higher grade cash. 2847.50-3047.50. Three months. 27,350-7,300. Sales: 27,370. Higher grade cash. 2847.50-3047.50. Three months. 27,320. Sales: 27,355. Settlement. 27,320. Sales: 27,320. Higher grade cash. 2847.50-3047.50. Three months. 27,361-7,333. Settlement. 27,320. Sales: 27,320. Jones. Higher grade cash. 2847.50-3047.50. Sales: 1,000 tonnes.

WELL: German production to 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

WEST GERMANY: production in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

WORLD: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED STATES: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum from 100,000 tonnes per annum.

UNITED KINGDOM: The West German government in the first quarter of 1982 was 110,000 tonnes per annum

APPOINTMENTS
Insurance
panel's new
members

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTERNATIONAL

SWEDEN
Workers
win
a say

The Swedish employers' association, the Swedish Labour Federation and white-collar unions have reached an agreement to give about 1.5 million workers in private industry a greater say in the running of their companies.

The employees will also have a voice in the adoption of new technology, organization of work, plans and economic decisions.

However, the so-called co-determination committees will not have any veto over employer's rights to hire and fire, as unions demanded some years ago.

JAPAN

Japanese car registrations hit an all-time monthly high in March, going up 6.5 per cent from a year before to a total of 529,550.

Japan does not intend to reduce its self-imposed ceiling on car exports to Canada this year, Mr Shunro Abe, the International Trade and Industry Minister, announced yesterday. He said he would recommend that exports be kept to the 1981

AUSTRALIA

Employment in Australia fell in February, reversing the previous 12 months' trend according to seasonally adjusted estimates issued by the Statistics Bureau. The bureau said civilian employment (seasonally adjusted) fell to 6,412,800 in February, down 5,000 or 0.1 per cent from January. In February last year, employment increased by 23,100 or 0.4 per cent.

Despite the fall from January, employment in the latest month remained at 76,600 or 1.2 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Mr Nils Asling, Swedish Industry Minister, who is touring Western Australia's mining operation areas urged Australian companies to invest in Sweden to force their way into the European market.

UNITED STATES

International coal shipments will more than double in the 1980s — from 192 million tonnes in 1980 to 425 million tonnes by 1990, according to National Economic Research Associates, an American firm of consulting economists. It predicted that coal imported by Europe will rise by 1 per cent a year above the general rate of inflation between 1985 and 1990.

WEST GERMANY

West German crude steel production rose 3.1 per cent in the first quarter of 1982 over the same year-ago period to 10.76 million tonnes, the regional bureaux of the federal statistics office said in Dusseldorf.

The West German manufacturing industry index of incoming orders fell by a provisional 1.9 per cent seasonally adjusted in February, after being unchanged in January.

FRANCE

ETPM, a subsidiary of the French Vallourec steel pipe group, has been awarded a contract worth \$50m (£51m) by the Norwegian state oil company Statoil to lay a pipeline in the North Sea. It is one of the biggest orders of its type.

BELGIUM

Belgium unemployment at the end of March remained at a record high of 10.9 per cent. The only big change was a decline of 2,000 in the number of young jobless.

The trade deficit of the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union widened sharply in January to a provisional Bel Fr 30,800m from Bel Fr 1,800m in December. The national institute of statistics reported in Brussels. January marked a worsening of the economic union's trading position, which had improved in the end of last year after a record deficit of Bel Fr 51,600m was recorded in August.

UGANDA

Uganda will request the potential donors at a World Bank meeting in Paris on May 17 for help in its \$600m (about £327m) recovery plan. "We are telling the international community 'help us now. If you do, in two years we will be on the other side of the counter,'" Mr Ephraim Kumantu, acting finance minister, said in Kampala yesterday.

The international race Britain cannot win

Frances Williams assesses our competitiveness

Last year witnessed a rare if not unique event in recent British economic history. We managed, in a small way, to improve our international competitive position by dint of our own domestic labour instead of relying entirely on the rest of the developed world to keep British goods in the running.

In 1981 lower pay settlements and a surge in productivity produced a rise in wage costs per unit of output of only 2.4 per cent, Britain's best performance since the mid-1960s when wage costs actually fell. This compares with a rise of 2.5 per cent in the year to mid-1980. By contrast, the latest international comparisons show unit wage costs rising at a yearly rate of 3 per cent in Japan, 4 per cent in Germany, 11 per cent in the United States and 14 per cent in France.

The result will have been to boost British competitiveness by perhaps 2 per cent or so, in addition to the gain from a 10 per cent drop in sterling over the year, enabling us to claw back perhaps a quarter of the 50 per cent loss of competitiveness suffered during 1979 and 1980.

Government ministers are losing no opportunity to reiterate their message that continued low pay settlements and greater productivity are essential if workers are to price them selves into jobs in international markets.

Will that message be heeded? And even if it is, will Britain reap the benefits?

On wages, the signals are unimpressive if not alarming.

Pay settlements in the 1981-82 round are averaging about 7 per cent in manufacturing, the most internationally exposed sector of the economy.

The index of competitive ness measures the rise in labour costs per unit of output in this country compared with our competitors, expressed in a common currency.

This is just 1 to 2 per cent below settlement rates in the previous pay round, despite steadily climbing unemployment and continued depressed output.

The majority of economic forecasters believe that the next pay round will see a higher level of settlements, perhaps of about 9-10 per cent. This would have earnings growing at 10 to 12 per cent over the year.

This is a bigger rise than experience of past recessions and industrial output is

expected to pick up quite sharply later this year, so wage movements are likely to accelerate or rise very slowly.

Productivity, and that company profits, are predicted to increase rapidly by anything between 20 and 30 per cent in 1982 with similar improvements in 1983.

All these factors are likely to encourage workers to press for higher pay to compensate for the drop in living standards over the past year or so.

Information collected by

comes Data Services, a private company which monitors pay, reveals that a few companies, in better financial shape than last year, have agreed to somewhat higher pay deals this time around.

Though companies may be inclined to be generous on wages — the higher profits

begun unusually in the cycle when output was still falling. This plus anecdotal evidence about new initiatives and working practices on the shop floor has produced talk of a productivity "miracle" — the suggestion that the long-run trend of productivity has shifted upwards from the sluggish 1½ per cent or so seen for much of the 1970s.

Others take the view that

recent rapid productivity growth is temporary, and unlikely to be sustained.

They argue that the figures

have been boosted artificially by closure or mothballing of less productive capacity to

give a once-and-for-all productivity boost. And they

point out that in past recessions labour "shakeout"

has been "shaken in" again

once recovery is underway,

dampening previous productivity growth.

The Treasury counters this

by arguing that continuing competitive pressures, and companies' expectations of

only moderate economic recovery, will keep up the pressure to hold costs down and by implication to be cautious about recruiting labour.

We shall not know who is

right until output recovers in earnest. But at one is

suggesting that last year's

productivity gains can be

repeated. Over the next few

months, as job losses con-

tinue while output picks up,

productivity is likely to go on

rising, though at a lower

pace. But in the longer term

even believers in miracles

cannot expect sustained

productivity growth above

European levels between 3

and 4 per cent a year.

This alone would be twice

as good as Britain's performance over the past few years.

Another problem area is

the same abroad. Britain can

only improve her competitive

position without recourse to

devaluation if her unit labour

costs are rising more slowly

than those of international

rivals.

Last year she may have

succeeded. But there are

signs that in other countries

too the rise in labour costs

may be slowing down.

Over the past year, or so

recession, as in Britain, has

tended to inhibit the growth

of earnings. (France, which

is trying to reflate its

economy, is a clear exception.) But recession has also slowed the growth of productivity, reflecting the usual pattern in which productivity falls and rises with output.

The reason is that output is

normally cut more quickly

than jobs.

This is just 1 to 2 per cent

below settlement rates in the

previous pay round, despite

steadily climbing unemployment

and continued depressed output.

The majority of economic

forecasters believe that the

next pay round will see a

higher level of settlements,

perhaps of about 9-10 per

cent. This would have earn-

ings growing at 10 to 12 per

cent over the year.

This is a bigger rise than

experience of past recessions

and industrial output is

expected to pick up quite

sharply later this year, so

wage movements are likely

to accelerate or rise very

slowly.

Productivity, and that

company profits, are predicted

to increase rapidly by anything

between 20 and 30 per cent in

1982 with similar improvements in 1983.

All these factors are likely

to encourage workers to

press for higher pay to

compensate for the drop in

living standards over the past

year or so.

Information collected by

comes Data Services, a private company which monitors

pay, reveals that a few compa-

nies, in better financial

shape than last year, have

agreed to somewhat higher

pay deals this time around.

Though companies may be

inclined to be generous on

wages — the higher profits

are likely to pick up quite

sharply later this year, so

wage movements are likely

to accelerate or rise very

slowly.

Productivity, and that

company profits, are predicted

to increase rapidly by anything

between 20 and 30 per cent in

1982 with similar improvements in 1983.

All these factors are likely

to encourage workers to

press for higher pay to

compensate for the drop in

living standards over the past

year or so.

Information collected by

comes Data Services, a private company which monitors

pay, reveals that a few compa-

nies, in better financial

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

CLORE ESTATE

Verdict expected

The fate of one of Britain's largest private fortunes — the estimated £40m estate of the late Sir Charles Clore — will be known tomorrow when the Court of Appeal hands down its judgment.

The Court will give its verdict on an Inland Revenue appeal that it should be allowed to recover tax totalling between £29m and £39m from the Clore estate. Specifically the Revenue wants authority to serve legal proceedings on Stype Investments (Jersey), a company controlled by a Jersey-based settlement set up by Sir Charles before his death. Stype removed substantial parts of the Clore estate from Britain to Jersey, and there out of the Inland Revenue's jurisdiction.

But even if the Revenue wins the legal arguments, officials privately concede that they face severe difficulties in actually getting access to the Clore estate's funds, since Jersey jealously guards its tax haven status.



The late Sir Charles Clore

Sir Charles, who died in England in July 1979, was reputedly Britain's richest man. Two years before his death he began transferring his assets out of the United Kingdom. In 1978 he sold shares worth £13m and transferred the proceeds out of the country. Two months before he died he conveyed his Herefordshire estate to Stype Investments (Jersey), and shortly after his death the estate was sold for £20.5m and the proceeds transferred to Jersey.

The Revenue has told the Court of Appeal judges that the remaining Clore estate assets in England — believed to be worth around £18m —

are not enough to pay the total tax bill. Another £15m worth of English-based assets belonging to Stype Investments have been frozen by a court injunction.

In the earlier High Court hearing, the Revenue claim that Stype Investments had "inter-meddled" in the Clore estate was rejected.

This week's judgment is unlikely to be the end of the matter. The size of the sums involved make it a strong possibility that whichever side loses on Wednesday will take the case to the House of Lords.

HIGGS AND HILL

Turnover up

Completion of a number of major contracts helped Higgs and Hill, the international construction and property group, to raise taxable profits by 73 per cent to £4.64m in the year to December.

This was comfortably above the forecast made by Mr Edwin Phillips, chairman, at the half-year, that the second half would be comparable to the first, when profits were up from £802,000 to £1.54m pre-tax.

Turnover for the year rose from £122m to £127m, and total distributions for the year are up 35 per cent with a 5.68p gross fona making 9.25p per share against 6.86p.

In its United Kingdom construction business the chairman says that after enjoying another good year, the intake of new work was more than satisfactory in the present market, providing a healthy workload for 1982.

Overseas the Cairo Plaza project is now nearing completion, and could make a contribution in the current year, while in Trinidad the group's performance continues to be satisfactory.

Property trading activities were hit by lack of tenant demand, but the group plans further developments, including a 70,000 sq ft warehouse development at West Drayton, London, and a substantial office scheme at Brighton, which might be retained as an investment.

Its European property division faced similar problems of lack of demand, but development continued on its own industrial scheme at Carros, Nice, and a number of commercial schemes around Paris, all of which were likely to be eventually sold on.



Edwin Phillips

Housebuilding suffered the slump in demand in the second half, but is stepping up output from less than 200 homes last year, and has a land bank sufficient for two years' work. There were now signs of improving demand.

In line with the rest of the stock market, Higgs and Hill shares shed 10p to 147p where they yield 6.3 per cent.

REED EXECUTIVE

Dividend passed

Reed Executive, the employment agency group, made a pretax loss of £1.65m in the 53 weeks to January 2, against a £249,000 profit and passing its final dividend for the second year in succession.

But it represents some improvement after first half losses of £954,000 pretax and Mr Alec Reed, chairman, said the prospects for 1982 were decidedly more promising than at this time last year.

He added that while the group would incur a loss in the first half, this should be offset by a profit in the second half. Turnover slipped from £35.64m to £33.19m. There was a first half distribution of 0.14p per share gross, against 2.13p.

There was a continued improvement from the group's 30 Medicare drugstores, where losses were cut from £382,000 to £105,000, of which £57,000 was pre-opening expenses. Operating losses were only 0.8 per cent of turnover against 4 per cent in 1980 and 8 per cent in 1979.

A revolution of the group's property threw up a £1.7m surplus, with net assets valued at £4.6m, or 44p per share. Reed shares slipped 1p to 27p where they yield 0.5 per cent.

SENIOR ENG

Bright outlook

Senior Engineering, the Waford-based engineering product trader, has staged some recovery in the second half of the year to December 1981 with pretax profits down only 11m from £5.09m to £4.01m.

At the half year profits fell dramatically from £3.03m to £1.4m on sales down £7.2m to £31.8m. Sales for the full year also recovered — to £68.5m against £79.05m last time.

At the trading level profits are down from £6.01m to £4.6m, but a fall in exceptional charges — from £299,000 to £266,000 and a drop in the interest charge by almost half to £389,000 — helped the pretax figure.

During 1981, the group's Thermal and Steel Tube divisions suffered the biggest problems of the recession, the company says. But the improved results, which are largely in line with forecasts, are due to some extent to prompt action to reorganise certain parts, the company says.

Senior, whose chairman is Professor Roland Smith, now says it has stronger resources than last year and expects improvements in profitability to show through this year.

"But margins remain under severe pressure and business is far from buoyant", it says.

The market yesterday took account of the improved second half performance and marked the shares up 1p to 26p against the 1.07p final. A 10-year, DM 150m Eurobond for the Interamerican Development Bank-Edp was launched yesterday with a 9 per cent coupon and a pricing at 99.5 per cent, according to lead manager, Deutsche Bank.

Frankfurt traders said the conditions would bring a yield of 9.08 per cent, which mirrors present market conditions.

The new bonds entered a market which had been calmer than previous days. Dealers said market participants were seen holding present positions in view

OVERSEAS COMPANIES

Fokker, the Netherlands aircraft manufacturer, reported a 10 per cent earnings increase for 1981 on a 15 per cent rise in sales. Net income climbed to the equivalent of \$4.1m (£2.3m) year from £3.7m. Sales jumped to \$485.3m from \$423m.

Great Atlantic Pacific Tea, New Jersey, said it expects to report a net loss — exclusive of a revitalisation programme and pension plan items — for the fourth quarter and fiscal year of about £2.9m and £31.6m (£1.65m and £18m) respectively.

At the end of the year, the company expects to have a net loss of about £1.8m.

Prices were higher in moderate trading on American Stock Exchange.

Analysts said the market may continue its search for direction following its recent advances.

Uncertainty about the course of interest rates, the duration of the recession and President Reagan's budget deficits have had a dampening influence on the market.

Share prices later turned lower as a snowstorm blanketing the

WALL STREET

New York, April 6. — Share prices were mixed in moderate trading at the opening of the New York Stock Exchange today. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up by 0.48 of a point to 835.80 shortly after the market opened.

Declines outnumbered advances by 389 to 303, among the 1,113 issues crossing the tape.

Early NYSE turnover reached about 10m shares.

Prices were higher in moderate trading on American Stock Exchange.

Analysts said the market may continue its search for direction following its recent advances.

Uncertainty about the course of interest rates, the duration of the recession and President

Reagan's budget deficits have had a dampening influence on the market.

Share prices later turned lower as a snowstorm blanketing the

New York Metropolitan area prompted the planned early closure of the New York Mercantile Exchange and possibly other commodity markets. Volume was light.

The Dow Jones Average was down by 2.41 points to 832.85 at about 1pm (New York time).

Declines outnumbered advances 570-378 among the 1,426 issues crossing the tape.

The first-hour turnover of about 10m shares compared with

13.4m shares on Monday.

Prices were slightly higher in moderate trading of American Stock Exchange issues.

American Telephone & Telegraph was the most active issue up 3m to 333.

AT&T was up 1.25 to 333.50.

Philip Morris was up 1.25 to 325.

IBM was up 1.25 to 295.

General Mills was up 1.25 to 285.

Eastman Kodak was up 1.25 to 280.

General Electric was up 1.25 to 275.

ITT was up 1.25 to 270.

ITT was up 1.25 to 265.

ITT was up 1.25 to 260.

ITT was up 1.25 to 255.

ITT was up 1.25 to 250.

ITT was up 1.25 to 245.

ITT was up 1.25 to 240.

ITT was up 1.25 to 235.

ITT was up 1.25 to 230.

ITT was up 1.25 to 225.

ITT was up 1.25 to 220.

ITT was up 1.25 to 215.

ITT was up 1.25 to 210.

ITT was up 1.25 to 205.

ITT was up 1.25 to 200.

ITT was up 1.25 to 195.

ITT was up 1.25 to 190.

ITT was up 1.25 to 185.

ITT was up 1.25 to 180.

ITT was up 1.25 to 175.

ITT was up 1.25 to 170.

ITT was up 1.25 to 165.

ITT was up 1.25 to 160.

ITT was up 1.25 to 155.

ITT was up 1.25 to 150.

ITT was up 1.25 to 145.

ITT was up 1.25 to 140.

ITT was up 1.25 to 135.

ITT was up 1.25 to 130.

ITT was up 1.25 to 125.

ITT was up 1.25 to 120.

ITT was up 1.25 to 115.

ITT was up 1.25 to 110.

ITT was up 1.25 to 105.

ITT was up 1.25 to 100.

ITT was up 1.25 to 95.

ITT was up 1.25 to 90.

ITT was up 1.25 to 85.

ITT was up 1.25 to 80.

ITT was up 1.25 to 75.

ITT was up 1.25 to 70.

ITT was up 1.25 to 65.

ITT was up 1.25 to 60.

ITT was up 1.25 to 55.

ITT was up 1.25 to 50.

ITT was up 1.25 to 45.

ITT was up 1.25 to 40.

ITT was up 1.25 to 35.

ITT was up 1.25 to 30.

ITT was up 1.25 to 25.

ITT was up 1.25 to 20.

ITT was up 1.25 to 15.

ITT was up 1.25 to 10.

ITT was up 1.25 to 5.

ITT was up 1.25 to 0.

Stock Exchange Prices

Sharp falls in gilts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 29. Dealings End, April 16. § Contango Day, April 19. Settlement Day, April 26.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Two or more bookings are permitted on two previous days.

BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY **BELL'S**

Inner-city grant scheme seeks to raise £250m

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday announced an experimental set of grants which could, if the American example or which they are based works in Britain, produce more than £250m of new investment in inner urban districts.

The Government will reserve £70m of its urban programme for 1982-84 for projects initiated by councils in which the private sector cooperates in house-building, reclaiming derelict land or constructing shops and offices. "There are no rules," Mr Heseltine said yesterday, meaning that any cooperative scheme between the public and private sectors would be considered by a team of officials and businessmen.

The new scheme is one of the first fruits of the group of young financial managers appointed by Mr Heseltine last autumn to advise him on urban regeneration. Mr Heseltine and his officials are aware that the coming weekend is the anniversary of the street violence in Brixton, from which the Government's renewed interest in urban problems has stemmed.

Mr Heseltine's new grants, for which bids will be asked for by September, require councils and firms to work together to "make a significant impact on the areas concerned and contribute to improving the local economic base". Companies must presumably expect to profit, too. The idea of levering private finance into inner urban projects comes from the

Hug an Indian tree

Continued from page 1

Almost everywhere contractors have gone beyond the legal limits of felling with the connivance of administrators who are easily paid off. So-called virgin forests, meant to remain untouched, have also been pillaged. Road building in hill areas has provided easier access for treecutters.

Contractors are important contributors to political funds. But the desperate condition of the forests in Himachal Pradesh has forced the state government to impose a ban on contract

work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Nurses refused arbitration in pay dispute

By Annabel Ferriman

Nurses are now likely to be balloted on the Government's 6.4 per cent pay offer after yesterday's refusal by health service employers to go to arbitration.

Leaders of Britain's 460,000 nurses met the management side of the health service in the Whitley Council yesterday and pressed for the pay dispute to go to an independent tribunal, but the talks broke down. The nurses are seeking a 12 per cent pay deal.

David Williams, leader of the staff side and assistant general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, said yesterday: "We think arbitration is the only way of saving us all a lot of bother."

A ballot would gauge nurses' feelings on the offer and ask them what action should now be taken. The staff side of the council will meet again on April 23 to decide on the next step.

felling, considered a bold step in view of the strength of the contractors' lobby.

The national government has drafted a bill which, if enacted, would enable the authorities to declare forests protected areas, down to the last twig and mushroom.

But critics point out that enforcement of the law would lie with the very officials now in the pay of contractors. Just as importantly, they say that the tribal inhabitants of forests would suffer because aspects of their traditional way of life, gathering fruit and firewood, would be made illegal.

Contractors are important contributors to political funds. But the desperate condition of the forests in Himachal Pradesh has forced the state government to impose a ban on contract

work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by Henry Moore, from today until April 25.

Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street,

Princess Alexandra takes The Lord High Admiral's Divisions, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 11.30.

New exhibitions Work by Craigie Aitchison, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30; (from today until May 16).

Drawings and sculpture by Ronald Rae, Rosehill House, Rosehill Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 4.30; Sun 12 to 5 (until April 25; from today until May 21). Also sculpture by